

**ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA**  
Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi – 110 001

**NO. ECI/PN/23/2008**

**Dated:14<sup>th</sup> October, 2008**

**PRESS NOTE**

**Subject: Schedule for General Election to the Legislative Assemblies of Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Rajasthan and NCT of Delhi**

The terms of the Legislative Assemblies of Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Rajasthan, and NCT of Delhi are normally due to expire on 21.12.2008, 14.12.2008, 14.12.2008, 14.01.2009 and 17.12.2008 respectively. 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 Representation of the People Act, 1951 the Commission is under the constitutional mandate to hold general elections to constitute the new Legislative Assemblies in the States of Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Rajasthan and NCT of Delhi within a period of six months before the expiry of the present term.

**ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCIES**

2. The total number of seats in the Assembly Constituencies of the above States and seats reserved for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, as determined by the Delimitation Commission under the Delimitation Act, 2002 are as under: -

State	Total No. ACs	ACs reserved for SC	ACs reserved for ST
Chhattisgarh	90	10	29
Madhya Pradesh	230	35	47
Mizoram	40	-	39
Rajasthan	200	34	25
NCT Delhi	70	12	-

**ELECTORAL ROLLS**

3. General Elections will be conducted in the States of Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Rajasthan, and NCT of Delhi on the basis of the electoral rolls revised with reference to 01.01.08 as the qualifying date and prepared in accordance with constituencies newly delimited by the Delimitation Commission. The electoral rolls in four States has been already completed and finally published. In NCT of Delhi, the electoral rolls of 24 Assembly Constituencies have been finally published on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2008 and the rolls of remaining 46 Constituencies will be published on 15-10-2008.

As per final rolls, there are 1,52,07,734 electors in the State of Chhattisgarh, 3,57,05,136 in the State of Madhya Pradesh, 6,11,124 in the State of Mizoram, and 3,62,19,481 in the State of Rajasthan. In NCT, Delhi final figures would be known after the final publications. Approximately 1, 09, 00,000 electors are registered according to the draft rolls. The electoral rolls of all the Assembly Constituencies of these States have been computerized and are available on the website of the Chief Electoral Officers of the States concerned.

#### **PHOTO ELECTORAL ROLLS**

4. All these States are having photo electoral rolls which will be used in these states during the forthcoming general elections for easy identification of voters.

#### **ELECTORS PHOTO IDENTITY CARDS (EPIC)**

5. Identification of the voters at the polling booth at the time of poll shall be mandatory. Electors who have been provided with EPIC shall be identified through EPIC only. Presently, the EPIC coverage in these States is as under:-

Chhattisgarh	64.51%
Madhya Pradesh	85.00%
Mizoram	91.00%
Rajasthan	84.63%
NCT Delhi	80.00%

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

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

6. The poll 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. A two-stage randomization of EVMs will be made. In the first stage, all the EVMs stored in the district storage centre will be randomized by the District Election Officer (DEO) in the presence of the representatives of the recognized political parties for allocation assembly constituency-wise. After the EVMs in a constituency are prepared for the poll by the Returning Officer and the ballot units are fitted with ballot papers, then the EVMs will again be randomized to decide the actual polling stations in which they will be

ultimately used. The second stage randomization will be done in the presence of Observers, candidates or their election agents.

### **LAW AND ORDER AND DEPLOYMENT OF FORCES**

7. Based on the assessment of the ground situation, Central Police Forces (CPF) and State Armed Police (SAP) drawn from other States will be deployed during the ensuing general elections. The CPF 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 on the poll day. Besides, these forces will be used for securing the strong rooms where the EVMs are stored and for securing the counting centers. Wherever needed, the CPF will be deployed in advance for area domination and other election related duties. The identification of polling stations requiring coverage by CPF 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 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 these States.

### **OBSERVERS**

9. The Commission will be deploying 650 Observers to ensure smooth conduct of forthcoming General Elections in these states. The Observers will be asked to keep a close watch on every stage of the electoral process to ensure free and fair elections.

In addition to the General and Expenditure Observers, the Commission will also deploy Micro-Observers selectively. They will be appointed from amongst the Central Government/Central PSU officials available locally. They will be stationed at specific polling station locations housing one or more polling stations and keep close watch on poll proceedings on the poll day. These micro-observers would directly work under control and supervision of the general observer.

## **CONDUCT OF OFFICIALS**

10. The Commission expects all officials engaged in the conduct of elections to discharge their duties in an impartial manner without any fear or favour. They all shall be deemed to be on deputation to the Commission and shall be subject to its control, supervision and discipline. 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.

11. 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. The Governments of the 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 positions entailing any election work.

12. The Governments of these 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.

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

## **PROTECTION TO SC/ST ELECTORS**

14. As per Section 3 (1) (vii) of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, 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 to a particular candidate or to vote in a manner other than that provided by law 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 Government to bring these provisions to the notice of all concerned for prompt action.

## **POLLING STATIONS**

15. There are 20,952 polling stations in Chhattisgarh, 46,812 in Madhya Pradesh, 1,026 in Mizoram, 42,212 in Rajasthan, and 10,849 in NCT of Delhi. For the facility of physically challenged persons, instructions have been issued to ensure that all polling stations as far as practicable, are located at ground floor and ramps are provided. Facilitation shall also be provided for locating elector's name against a polling station or a group of polling stations through help lines and facilitation centres.

## **POLLING PARTIES AND RANDOMIZATION**

16. Polling parties shall be formed randomly, through special application software. 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 randomly picked. This group will be trained for polling duties. In the second stage, from this trained manpower, actual polling parties as are required shall be formed by random selection software in the presence of ECI Observers. In the third randomization, the polling stations will be allocated randomly, just before the polling party's departure.

## **DISTRICT ELECTION PLAN**

17. The District Election Officers have been asked to prepare a comprehensive district election plan including communication plan for conduct of elections. The communication plan should include all resources such as landline telephones, mobile telephones, wireless sets, satellite phones etc., to facilitate effective monitoring and control on the day of poll. The state chief electoral officers have also been asked to open Help Lines and Control Rooms in each Assembly Constituency for the convenience of electors.

## **VIDEOGRAPHY**

18. All critical events shall be videographed. The Commission has issued detailed guidelines for video coverage of all critical events during the election process and polling at all vulnerable polling booths on the poll day. The digital cameras will also be deployed inside the booths wherever needed.

## **MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT**

19. **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 the above States and will be applicable to all candidates, political parties, the State Governments concerned and the Union Government from today itself. Attention of the political parties and candidates is particularly invited to the following provisions of the Code:-

“There shall be no appeal to caste or communal feelings for securing votes. Mosques, Churches, Temples or other places of worship shall not be used as forum for election propaganda.”

## **SCHEDULE**

20. The Commission has prepared the schedule for holding General Elections to the Legislative Assemblies of Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Rajasthan and NCT of Delhi after taking into consideration all relevant aspects, like the climatic conditions, academic schedules, festivals, prevailing law and order situation in the States, availability of Central Police Forces, time needed for movement and proper deployment of forces, and assessment of other ground realities. The schedule is also in keeping with the Commission’s consistent policy to club different state elections together even when their term ends on different dates separated by a few months..

21. The Commission after considering all relevant aspects has decided to recommend to the Governors of Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Rajasthan and NCT of Delhi to issue notifications for the General Elections to the Legislative Assemblies of the respective States under the relevant provisions of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 as per schedules given in the **Schedules Annexed.**

(S.K.RUDOLA)  
SECRETARY

## Schedule

Schedule for General Election to the Legislative Assembly of Chhattisgarh

### Phase 1

(For elections to 39 Assembly Constituencies listed in **Annexure I**)

Date of Issue of Gazette Notification	Last Date for nominations	Date for Scrutiny of Nominations	Last date for withdrawal of candidatures	Date of poll if necessary
20.10.08 (Monday)	27.10.08 (Monday)	29.10.08 (Wednesday)	31.10.08 (Friday)	14.11.08 (Friday)

### Phase 2

(For elections to 51 Assembly Constituencies listed in **Annexure II**)

Date of Issue of Gazette Notification	Last Date for nominations	Date for Scrutiny of Nominations	Last date for withdrawal of candidatures	Date of poll if necessary
27.10.08 (Monday)	03.11.08 (Monday)	04.11.08) (Tuesday)	06.11.08 (Thursday)	20.11.08 (Thursday)

**Counting** for both the phases shall be held on: **08.12.08**

**Date before which the election shall be completed:** **13.12.08**

Schedule for General Election to the Legislative Assembly of **Madhya Pradesh (all ACs)**

Date of Issue of Gazette Notification	Last Date for nominations	Date for Scrutiny of Nominations	Last date for withdrawal of candidatures	Date of poll if necessary
31.10.08 (Friday)	07.11.08 (Friday)	08.11.08 (Saturday)	10.11.08 (Monday)	25.11.08 (Tuesday)

**Counting** shall be held on: **08.12.08**  
**Date before which the election shall be completed:** **13.12.08**

Schedule for General Election to the Legislative Assembly of **Mizoram (all ACs)**

Date of Issue of Gazette Notification	Last Date for nominations	Date for Scrutiny of Nominations	Last date for withdrawal of candidatures	Date of poll if necessary
05.11.08 (Wednesday)	12.11.08 (Wednesday)	13.11.08 (Thursday)	15.11.08 (Saturday)	29.11.08 (Saturday)

**Counting** shall be held on: **08.12.08**  
**Date before which the election shall be completed:** **13.12.08**

Schedule for General Election to the Legislative Assembly of **NCT of Delhi (all ACs)**

Date of Issue of Gazette Notification	Last Date for nominations	Date for Scrutiny of Nominations	Last date for withdrawal of candidatures	Date of poll if necessary
04.11.08 (Tuesday)	11.11.08 (Tuesday)	12.11.08 (Wednesday)	14.11.08 (Friday)	29.11.08 (Saturday)

**Counting** shall be held on: **08.12.08**  
**Date before which the election shall be completed:** **13.12.08**

Schedule for General Election to the Legislative Assembly of **Rajasthan (all ACs)**

Date of Issue of Gazette Notification	Last Date for nominations	Date for Scrutiny of Nominations	Last date for withdrawal of candidatures	Date of poll if necessary
10.11.08 (Monday)	17.11.08 (Monday)	18.11.08 (Tuesday)	20.11.08 (Thursday)	04.12.08 (Thursday)

**Counting** shall be held on: **08.12.08**  
**Date before which the election shall be completed:** **13.12.08**



**Annexure 1**

List of 39 Assembly Constituencies going to poll in Phase I in Chhattisgarh.

<b>No. &amp; Name of AC</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>District</b>
39-Saraipali	SC	Mahasamund
40-Basna	GEN	Mahasamund
41-Khallari	GEN	Mahasamund
42-Mahasamund	GEN	Mahasamund
56- Sihawa	ST	Dhamtari
57- Kurud	GEN	Dhamtari
58- Dhamtari	GEN	Dhamtari
59 - Sanjari Balod	GEN	Durg
60 - Dondi Lohara	ST	Durg
61 - Gunderdehi	GEN	Durg
62 - Patan	GEN	Durg
63 - Durg Rural	GEN	Durg
64 - Durg City	GEN	Durg
65 - Bhilai Nagar	GEN	Durg
66 - Vaishali Nagar	GEN	Durg
67 - Ahiwara	SC	Durg
68 - Saja	GEN	Durg
69 - Bemetara	GEN	Durg
70 - Nawagarh	SC	Durg
71- Pandariya	GEN	Kabirdham
72- Kawardha	GEN	Kabirdham
73- Khairagarh	GEN	Rajnandgaon
74-Dongargarh	SC	Rajnandgaon
75-Rajnandgaon	GEN	Rajnandgaon
76-Dongargaon	GEN	Rajnandgaon
77-Khujji	GEN	Rajnandgaon
78- Mohla Manpur	ST	Rajnandgaon
79- Antagarh	ST	Uttar Bastar Kanker
80- Bhanupratappur	ST	Uttar Bastar Kanker
81- Kanker	ST	Uttar Bastar Kanker

<b>No. &amp; Name of AC</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>District</b>
82- Keshkal	ST	Bastar (Jagdalpur)
83- Kondagaon	ST	Bastar (Jagdalpur)
84- Narayanpur	ST	Narayanpur
85-Bastar	ST	Bastar (Jagdalpur)
86- Jagdalpur	GEN	Bastar (Jagdalpur)
87-Chitrakot	ST	Bastar (Jagdalpur)
88-Dantewada	ST	Dakshin Bastar Dantewada
89-Bijapur	ST	Bijapur
90-Konta	ST	Dakshin Bastar Dantewada

**Annexure 2**

List of 51 Assembly Constituencies going to poll in Phase 2 in Chhattisgarh.

<b>No. &amp; Name of AC</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>District</b>
01- Bharatpur-Sonhat	ST	Koria
02- Manendragarh	GEN	Koria
03- Baikunthpur	GEN	Koria
04- Premnagar	GEN	Surguja
05-Bhatgaon	GEN	Surguja
06-Pratappur	ST	Surguja
07-Ramanujganj	ST	Surguja
08-Samari	ST	Surguja
09-Lundra	ST	Surguja
10-Ambikapur	GEN	Surguja
11- Sitapur	ST	Surguja
12- Jashpur	ST	Jashpur
13- Kunkuri	ST	Jashpur
14- Pathalgaon	ST	Jashpur
15- Lailunga	ST	Raigarh
16- Raigarh	GEN	Raigarh
17- Sarangarh	SC	Raigarh
18- Kharsia	GEN	Raigarh
19-Dharamjaigarh	ST	Raigarh
20- Rampur	ST	Korba
21- Korba	GEN	Korba
22- Katghora	GEN	Korba
23- Pali- Tanakhar	ST	Korba
24- Marwahi	ST	Bilaspur
25- Kota	GEN	Bilaspur
26- Lormi	GEN	Bilaspur
27- Mungeli	SC	Bilaspur
28- Takhatpur	GEN	Bilaspur
29- Bilha	GEN	Bilaspur
30- Bilaspur	GEN	Bilaspur

<b>No. &amp; Name of AC</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>District</b>
31- Beltara	GEN	Bilaspur
32- Masturi	SC	Bilaspur
33- Akaltara	GEN	Janjgir-Champa
34 -Janjgir-Champa	GEN	Janjgir-Champa
35- Sakti	GEN	Janjgir-Champa
36 Chandrapur	GEN	Janjgir-Champa
37- Jaijaipur	GEN	Janjgir-Champa
38 -Pamgarh	SC	Janjgir-Champa
43- Bilaigarh	SC	Raipur
44- Kasdol	GEN	Raipur
45- Baloda Bazar	GEN	Raipur
46- Bhatapara	GEN	Raipur
47- Dharsiwa	GEN	Raipur
48- Raipur Rural	GEN	Raipur
49- Raipur City West	GEN	Raipur
50- Raipur City North	GEN	Raipur
51- Raipur City South	GEN	Raipur
52- Arang	SC	Raipur
53- Abhanpur	GEN	Raipur
54- Rajim	GEN	Raipur
55- Bindranawagarh	ST	Raipur