

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001

No. ECI/PN/30/2010

Dated: 6th September, 2010

PRESS NOTE

Subject : Schedule for General Election to the Legislative Assembly of Bihar and bye-election to Lok Sabha from 27-Banka Parliamentary Constituency in the State.

The term of the Legislative Assembly of the State of Bihar is due to expire on 27.11.2010. By virtue of its powers, duties and functions under Article 324 read with Article 172 (1) of Constitution and Section 15 of Representation of People Act, 1951, the Commission is required to hold the General Election to the Bihar Legislative Assembly before 27th November 2010 so as to constitute a new Legislative Assembly for the State before that date.

There is one casual vacancy in the Lok Sabha from 27-Banka Parliamentary Constituency in Bihar, arisen due to the death of sitting member Shri Digvijay Singh on 24.6.2010.

Assembly Constituencies

The total number of Assembly Constituencies in the State of Bihar and the 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. of ACs	Reserved for SC	Reserved for ST
Bihar	243	38	02

Electoral Rolls

The electoral rolls of all the Assembly Constituencies as delimited anew by the Delimitation Commission in the State of Bihar have been revised with reference to 1.1.2010 as the qualifying date and have been finally published. As per the final rolls, there are 5,50,88,402 electors in the State of Bihar.

Photo Electoral Rolls

Bihar has photo electoral rolls, which will be used, in the State during the forthcoming general elections for easy identification of voters. Bihar has 89% electors with photographs in the rolls. Efforts are continuing to increase the photo coverage in electoral rolls. All residual electors without photograph in the rolls are advised to contact their nearest Designated Photography Location (DPL) or the Electoral Registration Officer of their AC for inclusion of Photographs in the roll against their names.

Electoral Photo Identity Cards (EPIC) and Identification of Voters

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 the State of Bihar is 82.65%. All the residual electors are advised to obtain their Elector Photo Identity Cards from the Electoral Registration Officers of their Assembly Constituency.

In order to ensure that no voter is deprived of his/her franchise, if his/her name figures in the Electoral Rolls, separate instructions will be issued to allow additional documents for identification of voters at the time of poll in the General Election to the State.

Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs)

The poll in the State of Bihar 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. The Commission has issued a new set of instructions with regard to the First Level Check of EVMs that will be used in the polls in the State of Bihar. A two-stage randomization of EVMs will be made. In the first stage, all the EVMs stored in the District storage center 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 poll by the Returning Officer and the ballot units are fitted with ballot papers, 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 and candidates or their election agents.

Law and Order and Deployment of Forces

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.

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 Law & Order and to create atmosphere conducive for conduct of free and fair elections. The Commission will be constantly monitoring the ground situation closely and will take appropriate measures to ensure peaceful, free and fair polls in the State.

Observers

The Commission will deploy General Observers in adequate number to ensure smooth conduct of forthcoming General Elections in the State of Bihar. The Observers will be asked to keep a close watch on every stage of the electoral process to ensure free and fair elections. Their names, addresses within the district/constituency and their telephone numbers will be publicized in local newspapers so that the general public can quickly approach them for any grievance redressal. The Observers will be given a detailed briefing by the Commission before their deployment.

The Commission has also decided to appoint adequate number of Expenditure Observers in the State who will exclusively monitor the election

expenditure of the contesting candidates. Comprehensive instructions for the purpose of effective monitoring of the election expenditure of the candidates have been separately issued by the Commission.

Micro Observers

In addition to General Observers, the Commission will also deploy Micro-Observers to observe the poll proceedings in the polling stations on the poll day in selected critical polling stations. They will be chosen from Central Government/Central PSUs officials. Micro-Observers will observe the proceedings on the poll day right from the mock poll to the completion of poll and the process of sealing of EVMs and other documents to ensure that all instructions of the Commission are complied with by the Polling Parties and the Polling Agents. These Micro-Observers will work directly under the control and supervision of the General Observer. They will be tasked to ensure purity of polling process and will report to the General Observers directly about any vitiation of the poll proceedings in their allotted polling stations.

Similarly, it has been decided to appoint micro observers for closely monitoring the expenditure of the candidates. These micro observers will work directly under the control and supervision of the Expenditure Observers and will report to them directly. Instructions have been issued separately in this regard.

Conduct of Officials

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 are 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 the 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. 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 election related officials including police officials who have completed three years in a district during last four years should be transferred out of that district. The State Government has 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. The State Government has been instructed to ensure that those who stand transferred shall move out physically from their last place of posting and shall not remain there on any pretext including leave. The Commission has also instructed the State Government 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

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

There are 56,943 polling stations in the State of Bihar. 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 electors' names in a polling station or a group of polling stations through help lines and facilitation centers.

Polling Parties and Randomization

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

District Election Plan

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 Officer has also been asked to open State Communication Center at State Capital as also Help Lines and Control Rooms in each District/Assembly Constituency for the convenience of electors.

Videography

All critical events will be video-graphed. District Election Officers will arrange sufficient number of video and digital cameras and camera teams for the purpose. The events for videography will include filing of nomination, scrutiny thereof and allotment of symbols, preparations and storage thereafter of Electronic Voting Machines, important public meetings, processions etc. during campaign, process of dispatching of postal ballot papers, polling process in identified vulnerable polling stations, storage of polled EVMs, counting of votes etc. Digital cameras will also be deployed inside polling booths wherever needed. CDs of video recordings will be available on payment to anyone who wishes to obtain a copy of the same.

Model Code of Conduct

The Model Code of Conduct comes into effect immediately from now onwards. All the provisions of the Model Code will apply to the whole of the State of Bihar and will be applicable to all candidates, political parties, the State Government of Bihar and the

Union Government from today itself. Attention of the political parties and candidates is particularly invited to the following provisions of the Model 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 of election.

The Commission has prepared the schedule for holding General Elections to the Legislative Assembly of Bihar after taking into consideration all relevant aspects, like the climatic conditions, academic schedules, festivals, prevailing law and order situation in the State, availability of Central Police Forces, time needed for movement and proper deployment of forces, and assessment of other ground realities. The Commission after considering all relevant aspects has decided to recommend to the Governor of Bihar to issue notifications for the General Elections to the Legislative Assembly of Bihar under the relevant provisions of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 as per the schedule annexed.

Bye –election schedule

The Commission has decided to hold the bye-election to Lok Sabha from 27-Banka Parliamentary Constituency simultaneously with the general election to the Legislative Assembly with the same schedule fixed for the Assembly Constituencies comprised within the said Parliamentary Constituency , viz., 157-Sultanganj, 159-Amarpur, 160-Dhauraiya (SC), 161-Banka, 162-Katoria (ST) and 163-Belhar.

(Tapas Kumar)
Principal Secretary

SCHEDULE

SCHEDULE FOR GENERAL ELECTION TO THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF BIHAR

	1 st Phase	2 nd Phase	3 rd Phase	4 th Phase	5 th Phase	6 th Phase
Date of issue of notification	27.09.10 (Monday)	29.09.10 (Wednesday)	04.10.10 (Monday)	07.10.10 (Thursday)	15.10.10 (Friday)	27.10.10 (Wednesday)
Last date for making nominations	04.10.10 (Monday)	06.10.10 (Wednesday)	11.10.10 (Monday)	14.10.10 (Thursday)	22.10.10 (Friday)	03.11.10 (Wednesday)
Date for scrutiny of nominations	05.10.10 (Tuesday)	07.10.10 (Thursday)	12.10.10 (Tuesday)	15.10.10 (Friday)	23.10.10 (Saturday)	04.11.10 (Thursday)
Last date for withdrawal of candidatures	07.10.10 (Thursday)	09.10.10 (Saturday)	14.10.10 (Thursday)	18.10.10 (Monday)	25.10.10 (Monday)	06.11.10 (Saturday)
Date of poll, if necessary	21.10.10 (Thursday)	24.10.10 (Sunday)	28.10.10 (Thursday)	01.11.10 (Monday)	09.11.10 (Tuesday)	20.11.10 (Saturday)
Date before which the election shall be completed	26.11.10 (Friday)	26.11.10 (Friday)	26.11.10 (Friday)	26.11.10 (Friday)	26.11.10 (Friday)	26.11.10 (Friday)

Counting shall be held on: 24.11.2010(Wednesday)

**Number and Name of Assembly Constituencies in Phase-1(47 ACs)
Hours of Poll : 7 AM TO 5 PM**

- 31-Harlakhi
- 32-Benipatti
- 33-Khajauli
- 34-Babubarhi
- 35-Bisfi
- 36-Madhubani
- 37-Rajnagar(SC)
- 38-Jhanjharpur
- 39-Phulparas
- 40-Laukaha
- 41-Nirmali
- 42-Pipra
- 43-Supaul
- 44-Triveniganj(SC)
- 45-Chhatapur
- 46-Narpatganj
- 47-Raniganj(SC)
- 48-Forbesganj
- 49-Araria
- 50-Jokihat
- 51-Sikti
- 52-Bahadurganj
- 53-Thakurganj
- 54-Kishanganj
- 55-Kochadhaman
- 56-Amour
- 57-Baisi
- 58-Kasba
- 59-Banmankhi(SC)
- 60-Rupauli
- 61-Dhamdaha
- 62-Purnia
- 63-Katihar
- 64-Kadwa
- 65-Balrampur
- 66-Pranpur
- 67-Manihari(ST)
- 68-Barari
- 69-Korha(SC)
- 70-Alamnagar
- 71-Bihariganj
- 72-Singheshwar(SC)
- 73-Madhepura
- 74-Sonbarsha(SC)
- 75-Saharsa

Hours of Poll : 7 AM to 3 PM

76-Simri Bakhtiarpur

77-Mahishi

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Number and Name of Assembly Constituencies in Phase-2(45 ACs)
Hours of Poll : 7 AM to 5 PM

22- Sheohar
23-Riga
24-Bathnaha(SC)
25-Parihar
26-Sursand
27-Bajpatti
28-Sitamarhi
29-Runnisaidpur
30-Belsand
78-Kusheshwar Asthan(SC)
79-Gaura Bauram
80-Benipur
81-Alinagar
82-Darbhangha Rural
83-Darbhangha
84-Hayaghat
85-Bahadurpur
86-Keoti
87-Jale
88-Gaighat
89-Aurai
91-Bochaha(SC)
92-Sakra(SC)
93-Kurhani
94-Muzaffarpur
95-Kanti
96-Baruraj
131-Kalyanpur(SC)
132-Warisnagar
133-Samastipur
134-Ujiarpur
135-Morwa
136-Sarairanjan
137-Mohiuddinnagar
138-Bibhutipur
139-Rosera(SC)
140-Hasanpur
12-Narkatia
17-Pipra
18-Madhuban
20-Chiraia
21-Dhaka

Hours of Poll 7 AM to 3 PM

- 90-Minapur
- 97-Paroo
- 98-Sahebganj

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Number and Name of Assembly Constituencies in Phase-3 (48 ACs)
Hours of Poll : 7 AM to 5 PM

3-Narkatiaganj
4-Bagaha
5-Lauriya
6-Nautan
7-Chanpatia
8-Bettiah
9-Sikta
10-Raxaul
11-Sugauli
13-Harsidhi(SC)
14-Govindganj
15-Kesaria
16-Kalyanpur
19-Motihari
99-Baikunthpur
100-Barauli
101-Gopalganj
102-Kuchaikote
103-Bhorey(SC)
104-Hathua
105-Siwan
106-Ziradei
107-Darauli(SC)
108-Raghunathpur
109-Daraundha
110-Barharia
111-Goriakothi
112-Maharajganj
113-Ekma
114-Manjhi
115-Baniapur
116-Taraiya
117-Marhaura
118-Chapra
119-Garkha(SC)
120-Amnour
121-Parsa
122-Sonepur
123-Hajipur
124-Lalganj
125-Vaishali
126-Mahua
127-Raja Pakar(SC)
129-Mahnar

Hours of poll 7 AM to 3 PM

- 1-Valmikinagar
- 2-Ramnagar(SC)
- 128-Raghopur
- 130-Patepur(SC)

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Number and Name of Assembly Constituencies in Phase-4 (42 ACs)

Hours of Poll : 7 AM to 5 PM

141-Cheria Bariarpur
142-Bachhwara
143-Teghra
144-Matihani
145-Sahebpur Kamal
146-Begusarai
147-Bakhri(SC)
149-Khagaria
150-Beldaur
151-Parbatta
168-Lakhisarai
165-Munger
152-Bihpur
153-Gopalpur
154-Pirpanti(SC)
155-Kahalgaon
156-Bhagalpur
157-Sultanganj
158-Nathnagar
178-Mokama
179-Barh
180-Bakhtiarpur
181-Digha
182-Bankipur
183-Kumhrar
184-Patna Sahib
185-Fatuha
186-Danapur
187-Maner
159-Amarpur
160-Dhauraiya(SC)
161-Banka

Hours of poll 7 AM to 3 PM

148-Alauli(SC)
167-Suryagarha
164-Tarapur
166-Jamalpur
162-Katoria(ST)
163-Belhar
240-Sikandra(SC)
241-Jamui
242-Jhajha
243-Chakai

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Number and Name of Assembly Constituencies in Phase-5 (35 ACs)
Hours of Poll : 7 AM to 5 PM

192-Sandesh
193-Barhara
194-Arrah
195-Agiaon (SC)
196-Tarari
197-Jagdishpur
198-Shahpur
236-Hisua
237-Nawada
239-Warsaliganj
230-Gaya Town
232-Belaganj
233-Atri
234-Wazirganj
169-Sheikhpura
170-Barbigha
171-Asthawan
172-Biharsharif
173-Rajgir(SC)
174-Islampur
175-Hilsa
176-Nalanda
177-Harnaut

Hours of Poll 7 AM to 3 PM

235-Rajauli(SC)
238-Gobindpur
214-Arwal
215-Kurtha
216-Jehanabad
217-Ghosi
218-Makhdumpur(SC)
229-Bodh Gaya(SC)
188-Phulwari(SC)
189-Masaurhi(SC)
190-Paliganj
191-Bikram

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Number and Name of Assembly Constituencies in Phase-6 (26 ACs)
Hours of Poll : 7 AM to 5 PM

199-Brahampur
200-Buxar
201-Dumraon
202-Rajpur(SC)
203-Ramgarh
204-Mohania(SC)
209-Kargahar
211-Nokha
220-Obra
223-Aurangabad

Hours of Poll 7 AM to 3 PM

205-Bhabua
206-Chainpur
207-Chenari(SC)
208-Sasaram
210-Dinara
212-Dehri
213-Karakat
219-Goh
221-Nabinagar
222-Kutumba(SC)
224-Rafiganj
225-Gurua
226-Sherghati
227-Imamganj(SC)
228-Barachatti(SC)
231-Tikari

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