

STATE ELECTION COMMISSION, ODISHA,
TOSHALI BHAWAN, B-2, 1ST FLOOR, SATYANAGAR,
BHUBANESWAR-751007

Date: 11.01.2022

PRESS NOTE

1. According to Article 243-E of the Constitution of India, elections to reconstitute the Panchayati Raj Institutions shall have to be completed before the expiry of its term of five years from the date appointed for its first meeting.
2. The last General Election to Panchayati Raj Institutions were held between 13.02.2017 and 21.02.2017 and first meetings of the Gram Panchayat, Panchayat Samiti, Zilla Parishad were held on 10.03.2017, 11.03.2017 and 12.03.2017 respectively. As such, the Panchayati Raj Institutions are to be reconstituted before 10.03.2022, 11.03.2022 and 12.03.2022 respectively.
3. It is, therefore, mandatory to be in preparedness for holding the elections in time so as to meet the constitutional obligation.
4. The Commission has held meetings with Chief Secretary, Odisha, Special Relief Commissioner, Additional Chief Secretary, Health & Family Welfare Department on 08.01.2022, D.G. & I.G. of Police, Odisha & Additional Chief Secretary, Home Department on 10.01.2022 and Political Parties on 10.01.2022 for holding General Elections to PRIs, 2022.
5. New Steps:
 - i. Counting at Block Headquarters: As per the amended provision of Panchayat Laws, after completion of the entire election process in the State counting of votes will be taken up at the Block Headquarters for a period of 3 days during which the votes for all Ward Members, Sarpanches, Panchayat Samiti Members and Zilla Parishad Members will be counted.

- ii. The Commission has issued instructions to all the Collectors to upload Nomination Form and Affidavit furnished by the Zilla Parishad Member candidates in the District Website.
 - iii. Polling Hours: For ensuing General Elections to PRIs, 2022 the Commission has fixed Polling Hours from 7 AM to 1 PM.
 - iv. Toll free Number. A Call Centre will function from 9.00 AM to 6.00 PM with toll free number 1800-345-7787.
 - v. Control Room - Commission's Office No. 0674 -2573494.
Time – 8.00 AM to 9.00 PM.
6. COVID-19 Guidelines issued vide Letter No. 225 date 10.01.2022.
- i. No Road Show, Padajatra, cycle/bike/vehicle rally or procession shall be allowed.
 - ii. No physical rally of Political parties or probable candidates or any other group related to election shall be allowed.
 - iii. Political Parties and candidates are advised to conduct their campaign as much as possible through digital/ virtual/ media platforms/ mobile based mode instead of physical mode ensuring strict compliance of Covid safety norms.
 - iv. Door to Door Campaign- A maximum of 5 (five) persons including candidate, shall be allowed during door to door campaigning.
 - v. No victory procession after the counting shall be allowed.
 - vi. If a Candidate or Political Party violates COVID-19 Guidelines they are liable for prosecution under Section 51 of 60 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005.
 - vii. Only Fully vaccinated persons after negative RTPCR or Rapid Antigen testing will be allowed into the Counting Centres.
 - viii. Taking the prevailing situation into consideration the restrictions may be relaxed or stringent.

7. Elections will be held in 5 different phases throughout the state with one day gap between each phase. 2,79,35,520 Voters are eligible to exercise their franchise to elect 91,913 Ward members, 6794 Sarpanches, 6793 Panchayat Samiti Members and 853 Zilla Parishad Members.
8. Schedule:

Particulars	Date
Issue of notice by Election Officer	13.01.2022
Issue of nomination forms and presentation of nominations	17.01.2022 to 21.01.2022
Scrutiny of nominations	22.01.2022
Withdrawal of candidature	Upto 25.01.2022
Publication of final list of contesting candidates	25.01.2022
Date(s) of poll	16/18/20/22 & 24.02.2022
Counting of Votes and declaration of Result	26.02.2022 to 28.02.2022
Indirect Election	
i. Naib-Sarpanch	11.03.2022
ii. Chairman	12.03.2022
iii. Zilla Prishad President	13.03.2022
Date of election for Vice-Chairman	23.03.2022
Date of election for Vice-President	25.03.2022

The Model Code of Conduct shall remain in force from today till 28.02.2022 throughout the State.