

PRESS NOTE
FOR THE
GENERAL ELECTIONS
TO
THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLIES
OF
GOA, MANIPUR, PUNJAB,
UTTARAKHAND &
UTTAR PRADESH
2022



Election Commission of India
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Nirvachan Sadan, Asoka Road,
New Delhi-110001
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PRESS NOTE

Subject: General Election to Legislative Assemblies of Goa, Manipur, Punjab Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh, 2022 -reg.

The term of the Legislative Assemblies of **Goa, Manipur, Punjab Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh** is due to expire on the following dates. The term and the strength of the Assemblies is also indicated as below:

Name of State	Term of Assembly	No. of Assembly Seats
Goa	16 th March, 2017 to 15 th March, 2022	40
Manipur	20 th March, 2017 to 19 th March, 2022	60
Punjab	24 th March, 2017 to 23 th March, 2022	117
Uttarakhand	24 th March, 2017 to 23 th March, 2022	70
Uttar Pradesh	15 th May, 2017 to 14 th May, 2022	403

Election Commission of India (hereinafter ECI or Commission) is committed to conduct free, fair, peaceful, participative, accessible, inclusive and safe election to the Legislative Assemblies of Goa, Manipur, Punjab Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh before the cessation of its term, in exercise of the authority and powers conferred upon under Article 324 read with Article 172 (1) of the Constitution of India and Section 15 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951. Art 172(1) states clearly that " Every Legislative Assembly of every state, unless sooner dissolved, shall continue for five years ..and no longer.."

1. Assembly Constituencies-

The total number of Assembly Constituencies in the States of Goa, Manipur, Punjab Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh and seats reserved for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, as determined by the Delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies Order, 2008, are as under: -

State	Total No. of ACs	Reserved for SCs	Reserved for STs
Goa	40	1	-
Manipur	60	1	19
Punjab	117	34	-
Uttarakhand	70	13	2
Uttar Pradesh	403	84	2
Total	690	133	23

2. Commission works with three broad objectives this time- First, Covid safe Election; Two, hassle free comfortable voting experience and Three, maximum voter participation.

For last more than 6 months the entire election machinery was gearing up for these elections. Periodic reviews were done and senior officers of ECI held detailed meetings to review all aspects of poll preparation. A lot of Advance planning and meticulous preparation have been done. In the month of December, 2021, Commission visited 4 poll bound states to review poll preparedness. It discussed with various political parties and elicited their views and suggestions. It also met the Chief Secretaries, DGPs and other Enforcement Agencies in the states on various issues of preparedness.

As the covid cases showed a resurgence especially in view of the new Variant of Concern-Omicron, Commission held meetings with the Health Secretary, Govt of India and health experts. It also held discussions with the Union Home Secretary on

this issue. After taking all these views and the ground situation, Commission decided to announce elections to the five states.

3. Chief Secretaries of all poll going states have been directed to **accelerate the first and second dose of vaccination** to all eligible citizens above 18 years.

As on Jan 7, 2022: in Goa, more than 95.8% people have been vaccinated with both doses. In Uttarakhand 99.67% people have got their first dose and 82.39% have got the second dose. In Uttar Pradesh, 89.35% population had been administered first dose and more than 52% had taken both doses. In Punjab 81.9% had been given first dose of vaccination and 45.6 % covered by both doses. In Manipur, 59.6% had been jabbed with first dose while 44.8% had been administered both doses. In absolute figures, as on Jan 7, 2022 more than 15 crore people in these five states together have got the first dose of vaccine and more than 9 crore had been administered both doses.

4. Commission has directed that all central/state government officials **deployed for election duty shall be doubly vaccinated**. On the recommendation of ECI, the Union Health Ministry has issued orders on 8th February 2021 that all **election officials and employees will be treated as frontline workers** and **all eligible officials shall be given a precautionary booster dose** accordingly.

5. Electoral Rolls-

Commission firmly believes that pure and updated electoral rolls are the foundation of free, fair and credible election. Hence, intensive and sustained focus is placed upon improving their quality, health and fidelity. Commission had directed the State election machinery of Goa, Manipur, Punjab Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh to ensure a smooth, effective,

inclusive and time-bound completion of Special Summary Revision of Electoral Rolls with reference to 01.01.2022 as the qualifying date. Accordingly, the final publication of electoral roll has been done in Goa, Manipur, Punjab, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh on 05.01.2022.

As per electoral roll data w.r.t. 01.01.2022 as the qualifying date, the number of electors in the State of Goa, Manipur, Punjab Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh are:

State	No. of General Electors	No. of Service Voters	Total No. of electors as per electoral rolls
Goa	11,56,464	298	11,56,762
Manipur	20,34,966	21,935	20,56,901
Punjab	2,12,75,066	1,13,698	2,13,88,764
Uttarakhand	81,43,922	94,265	82,38,187
Uttar Pradesh	15,02,84,005	2,98,745	15,05,82,750
Total	18,28,94,423	5,28,941	18,34,23,364

Number of Electors marked as PwD in the State of Goa, Manipur, Punjab Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh are:

Name of State	Total PwD Electors
Goa	9,643
Manipur	14,651
Punjab	1,44,667
Uttarakhand	68,478
Uttar Pradesh	10,64,266

6. Photo Electoral Rolls and Electors Photo Identity Cards (EPIC):

Photo Electoral Rolls and Electors Photo Identity Cards (EPIC) will be used during the General Election of Goa, Manipur, Punjab Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh.

7. Identification of Voters at Polling Stations -

For identification at Polling Station, voter shall present her/his EPIC or any of the following identification documents approved by the Commission along with the Voter Information Slips:

- i. Aadhaar Card,
- ii. MNREGA Job Card,
- iii. Passbooks with photograph issued by Bank/Post Office,
- iv. Health Insurance Smart Card issued under the scheme of Ministry of Labour,
- v. Driving License,
- vi. PAN Card,
- vii. Smart Card issued by RGI under NPR,
- viii. Indian Passport,
- ix. Pension document with photograph,
- x. Service Identity Cards with photograph issued to employees by Central/State Govt./PSUs/Public Limited Companies, and
- xi. Official identity cards issued to MPs/MLAs/MLCs.

8. Voter Information Slips (VIS)

To facilitate voters in knowing the serial number of electoral roll of their polling station, date of poll, time etc., Commission vide decision dated 26.02.2021, has decided to issue 'Voter Information Slip' to the voters in place of Photo Voter Slip. Voter Information Slip will include information like Polling Station, Date, Time etc. but not the photograph of the voter. Voter Information Slips will be distributed at least 5 days before the date of poll to all enrolled electors, by the District Election Officer. However, Voter Information Slip will not be allowed as proof of identity of voters. It may be

recalled that the Commission had discontinued Photo Voter Slips as an identity proof with effect from 28th February, 2019.

Braille Voter Information Slips:

To ensure ease of participation and active engagement of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) in the electoral process, Commission has directed to issue Accessible Voter Information Slips with Braille Features to Persons with Visual Impairment, along with normal Voter Information Slips.

9. Voter Guide:

In these elections, a Voter Guide (in Hindi/English/Local Language) shall be provided to every elector's household ahead of elections, giving them information about the date and time of polls, contact details of the BLOs, important websites, helpline numbers, documents required for identification at the polling station besides other important information including the Do's and Don'ts for voters at the polling station. This Voter Guide Brochure will be distributed along with Voter Information Slips by the BLOs. Voter guide also contains important information like COVID guidelines and Do's & Don'ts for the voters.

10. **Nomination Process-** Brief description about additional facilities/directions about the process of nomination are as given below:

I. Additional option to facilitate online mode in nomination has been provided:

- 1) Nomination form will also be available online on the website of CEO/DEO. Any intending candidate may fill it online and its print may be taken for submission before the Returning Officer as specified in Form-1 (Rule-3 of Conduct of Election Rules 1961).

- 2) Affidavit may also be filled online on the website of CEO/DEO, its print can be taken and after notarization it may be submitted along with the nomination form before the Returning Officer.
- 3) Candidate may deposit security money through online mode at the designated platform. However, a candidate will continue to have the option of deposit in cash in the treasury.
- 4) Candidate may also exercise the option to seek his/her elector certification for the purpose of nomination online.

II. Further, Commission has directed the following:

- 1) Number of persons to accompany candidate for submission of Nomination is restricted to two (2) instead of five (5). (This is in supersession of existing Para 5.8.1 of Returning Officer's Handbook 2019)
- 2) Number of vehicles for the purposes of nomination is restricted to two (2) instead of three (3). (This is in supersession of existing Para 5.8.1 of Returning Officer's Handbook 2019)
- 3) Returning Officer's chamber should have sufficient space to perform the functions of nomination, scrutiny and symbol allocation following social distancing norms.
- 4) Returning Officer should allot staggered time in advance to prospective candidates.
- 5) Large space for waiting for candidate(s) should be arranged.
- 6) All steps required to be taken for the submission of nomination form and affidavit shall continue to operate as per the provisions contained in the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

11. Polling Stations and Special Facilitation-

1) Maximum No. of electors in Polling Station

There shall be maximum 1250 electors instead of 1500 electors in a polling station. Accordingly, the change in the number of Polling Stations in these States is as follows:

Name of State	No. of Polling Stations in 2017	No. of Polling Stations in 2022	% Increase in No. of Polling Stations
Goa	1,642	1,722	4.87%
Manipur	2,794	2,959	5.91%
Punjab	22,600	24,689	9.24%
Uttarakhand	10,854	11,647	7.31%
Uttar Pradesh	1,47,148	1,74,351	18.49%

2) **Assured Minimum Facilities (AMF) at Polling Stations:**

Commission has issued instructions to the Chief Electoral Officers of Goa, Manipur, Punjab Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh to ensure that every Polling Station needs to be on ground floor and, shall have good access road leading to Polling station building and is equipped with Assured Minimum Facilities (AMF) like drinking water, waiting shed, toilet with water facility, adequate arrangements for lighting, ramp of appropriate gradient for the PwD electors and a standard voting compartment etc. This will be further supplemented with COVID mitigation measures like sanitizers, thermal scanner, soap etc., as notified from time to time.

3) Polling Station Arrangements

In view of prevailing COVID situation, Commission has issued detailed instructions for assured minimum facilities at each polling station which are mentioned in Para 2 above. In addition, they will include:

- (1) Mandatory sanitization of Polling Station, preferably, a day before the poll.
- (2) Thermal checking of voters at entry point of polling station location/Polling station, either by polling staff or Para Medical staff or Asha worker.
- (3) If temperature is above the set norms of MoHF&W at first reading, then it will be checked twice and if it remains, then the elector shall be provided with token/certificate and will be asked to come for voting at the last hour of poll. At the last hour of poll, such electors shall be facilitated for casting their vote, strictly following COVID related preventive measures.
- (4) Help Desk for distribution of token to the voters on first come first basis so that they do not wait in the queue.
- (5) Markers to demonstrate social distancing for queue.
- (6) Earmarking circle for 15-20 persons of 2 yards (6 feet) distance for voters standing in the queue depending on the availability of space. There shall be three queues each, for male, female, and PwD/ Senior citizen voters.
- (7) The services of BLOs, volunteers etc may be engaged to monitor and regulate social distancing norms strictly.
- (8) One shaded waiting areas with chairs, dari etc. will be provided, for male and female separately, within the polling station premises
- (9) Wherever possible, Booth App shall be used at the polling station.

- (10) Face Masks will be kept in reserve for those electors who are not carrying their mask.
- (11) Awareness posters on COVID should be displayed at visible locations.
- (12) If polling agent or counting agent has temperature above the prescribed limit, then their reliever shall be allowed by Presiding Officer, who will keep a record of the same.
- (13) During the process of identification of voter, voters will be required to lower their facemask for identification, when required.
- (14) Hand gloves shall be provided to the voter, for signing on the voter register and pressing the button of EVM for voting.
- (15) COVID patients and others who are quarantined will be allowed to cast their vote at the last hour of the poll on poll day at their respective Polling Stations, under the supervision of health authorities, strictly following COVID related preventive measures. Sector Magistrates shall coordinate this in their allocated polling stations. Record of such electors shall be maintained by the Presiding Officer.
- (16) Proper mechanism of collection and disposal of waste / used gloves, masks etc shall be put in place at each Polling Station for disposal as per standard health protocol.

4) Facilitation for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) and Senior Citizens:

In Goa, Manipur, Punjab Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh, all polling stations are located at ground floor and sturdy ramps with proper gradient are provided for the convenience of differently abled electors with wheelchairs. Further, in order to provide targeted and

need-based facilitation to differently-abled voters, Commission has directed that all Persons with Disabilities and Senior Citizens in an Assembly Constituency are identified and tagged to their respective Polling Stations and necessary disability-specific arrangements made for their smooth and convenient voting experience on poll day. Identified PwD and Senior Citizens electors will be assisted by volunteers appointed by RO/DEO. Special facilitation will be made for PwD and Senior Citizens electors at Polling Stations. Also, it has been directed that differently abled electors are given priority for entering polling booths, provision made for designated parking spaces close to the entrance of polling station premise and special facilitation extended to electors with speech and hearing impairment. Special focus has been laid on sensitization of polling personnel regarding special needs of the differently abled electors.

Commission has directed the Chief Electoral Officers (CEOs) that there should be proper transport facility for PwD electors and Senior Citizens electors in each and every polling station on the day of poll. PwD electors and Senior Citizen electors will be provided free pass for using public transport on poll day.

5) Voter Facilitation Posters:

In order to fulfil the statutory requirements under Rule 31 of the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961 and to provide accurate and relevant information for voter awareness and information at each polling station, the Commission has also directed that uniform and standardized Voter Facilitation Posters (VFP) *[total of FOUR (4) kind of Posters i.e. 1. Polling Station Details, 2. List of Candidates, 3. Dos and Don'ts and 4. Approved Identification Documents & How to Vote]*

shall be prominently displayed at all Polling Stations. Additionally, Chief Electoral Officer will ensure display of COVID related safety measures for the voters at each Polling Station for voters' awareness.

6) Voter Assistance Booths (VAB):

Voter Assistance Booths shall be set up for every polling station location, having a team of BLO/officials in order to assist voters to correctly locate her /his polling booth number and serial number in the electoral roll of that concerned polling booth. The VABs will be set up with prominent signage and in such a manner that it will be conspicuous to the voters as they approach the polling premise/building to enable them to seek required facilitation on poll day.

Alphabetic locator (as per English alphabet) generated with ERO Net is placed at VAB to search the name easily and to know the serial number in the Electoral Roll.

7) Standardized Voting Compartment to ensure Secrecy of Voting:

In order to maintain the secrecy of vote at the time of poll and to achieve uniformity in use of voting compartments, Commission revised its instructions on 15th November, 2016 and increase the height of the Voting Compartments to 30 inches and also directed that the Voting Compartment should be placed on a table whose height shall be 30 inches. Only corrugated plastic sheet (flex board) of steel-grey colour, which is completely opaque and reusable, shall be used for making the voting compartments. The Commission hopes that the use of these standardized and uniform Voting Compartments in all the polling booths will translate into greater voter facilitation, ensure absolute secrecy of vote and eliminate aberrations and non-uniformity in the preparation of Voting Compartment inside the polling booths.

12. Distribution and Collection of Election Material-

- 1) Large halls/spaces should be identified for distribution/collection of election material.
- 2) As far as practicable, it should be organized in a decentralized manner.
- 3) Prior and staggered time slots should be allocated to the polling teams for distribution/collection of election material to avoid crowding.

13. Counting of votes- Counting of votes

- 1) At entry of Counting Hall there must be facility of Thermal Scanning and Sanitizer.
- 2) Counting Centres shall be disinfected before and after the counting.
- 3) Counting Hall be sufficiently big to maintain social distancing, proper ventilation, windows, exhaust fan etc.
- 4) Anyone, even after double vaccinated, having any symptom of COVID like fever, Cold etc. will not be allowed in Counting hall.
- 5) Every Counting Official and Security personnel be provided with Mask, Sanitizer, Face-Shield and Hand Gloves.
- 6) Not more than 7 counting tables should be allowed in a counting hall. Hence, counting of votes of a constituency may be considered at 3-4 halls by appointing additional Assistant Returning Officers. (In supersession of instructions dated 30th April, 2014)
- 7) The counting centres shall be disinfected before, during and after the counting.
- 8) For counting of Postal Ballots, additional number of AROs may be required. If required, Postal Ballots may also be counted in a separate

hall under the supervision of the Returning Officer/ Assistant Returning officer.

- a. DEO shall appoint a Nodal Officer at each Counting Centre to ensure compliance of COVID guidelines with assistance of Nodal Health Officer and Compliance Certificate in r/o Counting Centre arrangement as per COVID guidelines from Health Authorities be taken.
- b. List of counting agents be made available by candidates to RO by 1700 hours on day three days prior to counting.
- c. No public gathering outside the counting venue during process of counting.
- d. Candidate may appoint/replace counting agents in case report is positive.

14. Campaign by the political party's/contesting candidates-

Commission has issued detailed guidelines to conduct elections during the period of pandemic, which are annexed (**Annexure 6**) with this Press Note.

15. Non-compliance of Instructions – *Anybody violating instructions on COVID measures will be liable to proceed against as per the provisions of Section 51 to 60 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005, besides legal action under Section 188 of the IPC, and other legal provisions as applicable, as specified in Order No. 40-3/2020-DM-I(A) dated 25th November, 2020 of Ministry of Home Affairs.*

District Election Officer should bring this to the notice of all concerned.

16. Initiatives for PwD Voters, Senior Citizens above 80 years, Electors employed in essential services and COVID suspect/affected voters:

1) Option of Postal Ballot facility has been extended to the electors of following categories:

- a) Electors, who are flagged as Persons with Disabilities (PwD) in electoral roll.
- b) Electors above the age of 80 years
- c) Electors employed in notified Essential services
- d) Electors who are COVID positive/suspect as certified by competent authority and are in quarantine (home/institutional)

2) By notification dated 22.10.2019 of the Ministry of Law & Justice, the Conduct of Election Rules have been amended on the recommendation of the Commission to enable “absentee voters” to vote by postal ballot. Electors employed in essential services as may be notified by the Commission under section 60 (C) of the R.P. Act, 1951, electors who are above 80 years of age and the electors marked as Persons with Disabilities in the Electoral Roll will have the option to seek postal ballot paper for casting their vote.

3) All such voters in the above categories will have to apply for the Postal Ballot within 5 days of notification for election in their Assembly Constituencies, if they wish to use the option of Postal Ballot for voting.

4) All eligible electors will be given an application form by the BLOs who will then collect the filled in form with elector’s choice – whether the elector wants Postal Ballot or wants to go to the Polling Station to vote

A polling team comprised of 2 polling officials along with a videographer and security will then go to the elector’s house along with a Voting Compartment and get the elector to vote on the Postal Ballot maintaining complete secrecy of vote. Candidates will be provided a list of these electors in advance and will also be provided the schedule of voting and the route chart of the polling parties so that they can send their representatives to witness the polling procedure. Postal ballots will then be stored securely by the Returning Officer.

- 5) This is an optional facility and does not involve any Postal Department mailing kind of arrangement.
- 6) Commission has directed the Chief Electoral Officers of Goa, Manipur, Punjab Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh to take necessary steps for the dissemination of information and extending facilitation to the above categories of Voters.
- 7) This facility of Absentee Voters was provided for the first time in the country to PwD and 80+ voters to 7 Assembly Constituencies in Jharkhand and Delhi and the facility was later extended in Bihar, Assam, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Puducherry.
- 8) The Chief Electoral Officers of the Election going States have been directed to make a comprehensive Plan in respect of the Accessibility initiatives and measures required to be taken for Persons with Disability and Senior Citizens.

17. Polling stations managed by women officials-

As part of its firm commitment towards gender equality and greater constructive participation of women in the electoral process, the Commission has also directed that, to the extent possible, at least one polling station managed exclusively by women shall be set up in every Assembly Constituency in 5 poll going States i.e. Goa, Manipur, Punjab Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh. In such Polling Stations, all election staff, including police and security personnel, will be women.

18. Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPATs):

(1) Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPATs)

The Commission shall deploy Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) along with Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) at every polling station in the

General Election to Legislative Assemblies of Goa, Manipur, Punjab Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh to enhance the transparency and credibility of the election process as VVPAT allows the voter to verify her/his vote. Arrangements have already been made to ensure availability of adequate number of EVMs and VVPATs for the smooth conduct of elections.

(2) Awareness on EVMs and VVPATs

EVM Demonstration centres are set up at District Election Officer Office and Returning Officer Headquarters/Revenue Sub Division Offices for physical demonstration-cum-awareness. Mobile Demonstration Vans are deployed to create awareness on use of EVMs and VVPATs to cover all polling locations. The same is operational till announcement of elections, whereas digital outreach will be intensified after announcement.

(3) Randomization of EVMs and VVPATs

EVMs/VVPATs are randomized twice using “EVM Management System (EMS)” while being allocated to an Assembly and then to a polling booth ruling out any fixed allocation. Lists of randomized EVMs/VVPATs are also shared with political parties/candidates.

(4) Commissioning of EVMs and VVPATs

After finalization of list of the contesting candidates, commissioning (candidate setting) of EVMs and VVPATs is done in the presence of the contesting candidates/their representatives. After commissioning (candidate setting) of EVMs and VVPATs, in every EVM and VVPAT, mock poll with one vote to each candidate including NOTA is done. Additionally, mock poll of 1000 votes is conducted in 5% randomly selected EVMs, as well as VVPATs. The electronic result is tallied with paper count.

(5) Mock Poll on Poll Day

- (i) On poll day, 90 minutes before start of actual poll, mock poll is conducted by casting at least 50 votes at every polling station, in the presence of polling agents of the candidates and the electronic result of the Control Unit and the VVPAT slips count are tallied and shown to them. A certificate of successful conduct of mock poll shall be made by the Presiding Officers in Presiding Officer's Report.
- (ii) Immediately after mock poll, the CLEAR button on Control Unit (CU) is pressed to clear the data of the mock poll and the fact that no votes are recorded in the CU is displayed to the Polling Agents present. The Presiding Officer also ensures that all mock poll slips shall be taken out from the VVPAT and kept in separate marked envelope before the start of Poll.
- (iii) After mock poll, EVMs and VVPATs are sealed in the presence of polling agents and signature of polling agents are obtained on seals, before starting actual poll.

(6) Poll Day and Storage of polled EVMs and VVPATs at Strong Rooms

- (i) On poll day, after completion of poll, a copy of Form-17C having details of total polled votes, seals (unique number), serial numbers of EVMs and VVPATs used in polling stations is provided to polling agents of candidates.
- (ii) After completion of poll, EVMs and VVPATs are sealed in the respective carrying cases in the presence of polling agents and signature of polling agents are obtained on seals.
- (iii) Polled EVMs and VVPATs are escorted back to the strong room for storing in double lock system in the presence of candidates/their representatives under videography.

- (iv) Candidates or their representatives can also camp in front of the strong room. These strong rooms are guarded 24x7 in multilayers, with CCTV facilities.

(7) Counting of Votes at Counting Centres

- (i) On the day of counting, strong room is opened in the presence of Candidates, RO and Observer under videography.
- (ii) The polled EVMs are brought to the Counting Centres under security under CCTV coverage and in presence of candidates/their agents.
- (iii) Round-wise CUs are brought to the counting tables from Strong Rooms under continuous CCTV Coverage.
- (iv) On the counting day, before retrieving the result from the Control Units, the seals are verified, and unique serial numbers of CU is tallied before counting agents deputed by the candidates.
- (v) On counting day, counting agents can verify the polled votes displayed on CU with that of Form-17C. Candidate-wise polled votes are recorded in part-II of Form-17 C and signature of counting agents are obtained thereof.
- (vi) EVMs & VVPATs are stored back in Strong Room in the presence of candidates/their representatives till the completion of the Election Petition period.

(8) Mandatory Verification of VVPAT Paper Slip-

In pursuance of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India's order dated 8th April, 2019, the Commission has also mandated VVPAT slips count of Five (5) randomly selected Polling Stations in each Assembly Constituency of the Legislative Assemblies of Goa, Manipur, Punjab Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh, by the Returning Officer, by Draw of Lot in presence of all candidates, shall be done for verification of the result obtained from the Control Unit after completion of counting of all rounds of EVM. This

mandatory verification of VVPAT slip count of five (5) polling stations in each Assembly Constituency shall be in addition to the provisions of Rule 56(D) of the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961.

(9) None of the Above (NOTA) in EVMs, VVPATs and Postal Ballot:

As usual, there will be 'None of the Above' option for the elections. On the BUs, below the name of the last candidate, there will be a button for NOTA option so that electors who do not want to vote for any of the candidates can exercise their option by pressing the button against NOTA. Similarly, on Postal Ballot Papers also there will be a NOTA Panel after the name of the last candidate. The symbol for NOTA as given below will be printed against the NOTA Panel.



As part of the SVEEP, there are awareness programmes to bring this option to the knowledge of voters and all other stakeholders.

(10) Photographs of Candidates on EVM Ballot Paper

In order to facilitate the electors in identifying the candidates, ECI has prescribed an additional measure by way of adding provision for printing the photograph of candidate also on the ballot paper to be displayed on the EVM (Ballot Unit) and on Postal Ballot Papers. This will help avoid any confusion, which may arise when candidates with same or similar names contest from the same constituency. For this purpose, the candidates are required to submit to the Returning Officer, their recent Stamp Size photograph as per the specifications laid down by the Commission.

19. Deployment of Polling Personnel and Randomization-

- a) Polling parties shall be formed randomly, through the special randomization IT application.
- b) There shall be such randomization for Police personnel and Home Guards also, who are deployed at the polling stations on the poll day.
- c) In view of situation of COVID, Timing for 3rd randomization of polling staff be increased from 24 hrs to 72 hrs in order to avoid large gathering of polling staff at dispatch centres. As far as practicable, despatch and receipt of polling teams shall be organised in decentralised and staggered manner.

20. Affidavits of Candidates-

In pursuance of the judgment dated 13th September, 2013 passed by the Supreme Court in Writ Petition (C) No. 121 of 2008 (Resurgence India Vs Election Commission of India and Another), which among other things makes it obligatory for the Returning Officer “to check whether the information required is fully furnished (by the candidate) at the time of filing of affidavit with the nomination paper”, the Commission has issued instructions that in the affidavit to be filed along with the nomination paper, candidates **are required to fill up all the columns**. If any column in the affidavit is left blank, the Returning Officer will issue a notice to the candidate to file a revised affidavit with all columns duly filled in. After such notice, if a candidate still fails to file affidavit complete in all respects, the nomination paper will be liable to be rejected by the Returning Officer at the time of scrutiny.

21. Candidates with Criminal Cases-

Candidates with criminal antecedents are required to publish information in this regard in newspapers and through Television channels on three occasions during the campaign period. A political party that sets up

candidates with criminal antecedents is also required to publish information about criminal background of its candidates, both on its website and also in newspapers and Television channels **on three occasions**.

Commission vide its letter No. 3/4/2019/SDR/Vol.IV dated 16th September, 2020 has directed that the period specified will be decided with three blocks in the following manner, so that electors have sufficient time to know about the background of such candidates:

- a. Within first 4 days of withdrawal.
- b. Between next 5th- 8thdays.
- c. From 9th day till the last day of campaign (the second day prior to date of poll)

(Illustration: If the last date for withdrawal is 10th of the month and poll is on 24th of the Month, the first block for publishing of declaration shall be done between 11th and 14th of the Month, second and third blocks shall be between 15th and 18th and 19th and 22nd of that Month, respectively.)

This requirement is in pursuance of the judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in Writ Petition(C) No. 784 of 2015 (Lok Prahari Vs. Union of India & Others) and Writ Petition(Civil) No. 536 of 2011 (Public Interest Foundation & Ors. Vs. Union of India & Anr.).

This information will also be available on an App titled, 'know your candidates'.

22. Political Parties setting up candidates with Criminal Cases-

In pursuance of The Hon'ble Supreme Court Order dated 13.02.2020 in Contempt Petition (C)No. 2192 of 2018 in WP(C) No. 536 of 2011, it is mandatory for political parties (at the Central and State election level) to upload on their website detailed information regarding individuals with pending criminal cases (including the nature of the offences, and relevant particulars such as whether charges have been framed, the concerned Court,

the case number etc.) who have been selected as candidates, along with the reasons for such selection, as also as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates. The reasons as to selection shall be with reference to the qualifications, achievements and merit of the candidate concerned, and not mere "winnability" at the polls.

This information shall also be published in:

- (a) One local vernacular newspaper and one national newspaper;
- (b) On the official social media platforms of the political party, including Facebook & Twitter.

These details shall be published within **48 hours of the selection of the candidate and not prior to two weeks before the first date of filing of nominations**. The political party concerned shall then submit a report of compliance with these directions with the Election Commission within 72 hours of the selection of the said candidate. If a political party fails to submit such compliance report with the Election Commission, the Election Commission shall bring such non-compliance by the political party concerned to the notice of the Supreme Court as being in contempt of this Court's orders/directions. The Commission's instructions issued vide letter no. 3/4/2020/SDR/Vol.III dated 6th March, 2020 available on the Commission's website may be seen.

Further, the Hon'ble Supreme Court in *Brajesh Singh v. Sunil Arora & Ors.* [Contempt Petition (C) No. 656/2020 in Contempt Petition (C) No. 2192/2018 in WP(C) No. 536/2011] issued some additional directions vide judgment dated 10.08.2021, which has been circulated to all the parties vide Commission's letter No. 3/4/SDR/VOL.I dated 26.08.2021, is available on the Commission's website. Following are the directions which are concerned with the political parties: -

- (a) Political parties are to publish information regarding criminal*

- antecedents of candidates on the homepage of their websites, thus making it easier for the voter to get to the information that has to be supplied. It will also become necessary now to have on the homepage a caption which "candidates with criminal antecedents";*
- (b) We clarify that the direction in paragraph 4.4 of our Order dated 13.02.2020 be modified and it is clarified that the details which are required to be published, shall be published within 48 hours of the selection of the candidate and not prior to two weeks before the first date of filing of nominations; and*
- (c) We reiterate that if such a political party fails to submit such compliance report with the ECI, the ECI shall bring such noncompliance by the political party to the notice of this Court as being in contempt of this Court's Orders/directions, which shall in future be viewed very seriously."*

23. Advisory to Political Parties regarding silence period-

For reviewing the working of Section 126 in the context of advancement in communication technology and rise of social media, a Committee was constituted by the Commission with the mandate of studying the provisions of Section 126 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 and other related provisions and to make suitable recommendation in this regard. The Committee submitted its report to the Commission on 10th January, 2019. Among other proposals, the Committee has proposed for an advisory to political parties for compliance with the letter and spirit of the provisions of Section 126. Commission called upon all political parties to instruct and brief their leaders and campaigners to ensure that they observe the silence period on all forms of media as envisaged under Section 126 of the RP Act, 1951, and their leaders and cadres do not commit any act that may violate the spirit of Section 126.

In a multi-phased election, the silence period of last 48 hours may be on in certain constituencies while campaign is ongoing in other constituencies. In such event, there should not be any direct or indirect reference amounting to soliciting support for parties or candidates in the constituencies observing the silence period.

During the silence period, star campaigners and other Political Leaders should refrain from addressing the media by way of press conferences and giving interviews on election matters.

24. District, AC Level and Booth Level Election Management Plan-

The District Election Officers have been asked to prepare a comprehensive District Election Management Plan in consultation with SSPs/SPs and Sector Officers, including the route plan and the communication plan for conduct of elections. These will be vetted by the Observer, taking into account vulnerability mapping exercise and mapping of critical polling stations, in accordance with Election Commission of India's extant instructions.

25. Communication Plan-

Commission attaches great importance to preparation and implementation of a perfect communication plan at the district/constituency level for the smooth conduct of elections and to enable concurrent intervention and mid-course correction on the poll day. For the said purpose, the Commission has directed the Chief Electoral Officers of Goa, Manipur, Punjab Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh to coordinate with the officers of Telecommunication Department in the State headquarters, BSNL/MTNL authorities, the representatives of other leading service providers in the State so that network status in the State is assessed and communication shadow areas be identified. The CEOs has also been instructed to prepare the effective

communication plan in their States and make suitable alternate arrangements in the communication shadow areas by providing Satellite Phones, Wireless sets, Special Runners etc.

26. Model Code of Conduct-

Model Code of Conduct comes into effect immediately from the announcement of schedule. All the provisions of the Model Code will apply to the whole of Goa, Manipur, Punjab Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh with regard to all candidates, political parties and the governments of the said States. The Model Code of Conduct shall also be applicable to the Union Government in so far as announcements/policy decisions pertaining to/for Goa, Manipur, Punjab Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh are concerned.

The Commission has made elaborate arrangements for ensuring the effective implementation of MCC Guidelines. Any violation of these Guidelines would be strictly dealt with and the Commission re-emphasizes that the instructions issued in this regard from time to time should be read and understood by all Political Parties, contesting candidates and their agents/representatives, to avoid any misgivings or lack of information or inadequate understanding/interpretation. The Governments of the poll-bound States have also been directed to ensure that no misuse of official machinery/position is done during the MCC period.

The Commission has also issued instructions for swift, effective and stringent action for enforcement of Model Code of Conduct during the first 72 hours of announcement of the election schedule and also for maintaining extra vigilance and strict enforcement action in the last 72 hours prior to the close of polls. These instructions have been issued in the form of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for compliance by the field election machinery.

27. Videography/ Webcasting/CCTV Coverage-

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 papers and scrutiny thereof, allotment of symbols, First Level Checking, preparations and storage of Electronic Voting Machines, important public meetings, processions etc. during election campaign, process of dispatching of postal ballot papers, polling process in identified vulnerable polling stations, storage of polled EVMs and VVPATs, counting of votes etc. Additionally, CCTVs will be installed at important Border Check Posts and Static Check Points for effective monitoring and surveillance. Further, the Commission has directed that Webcasting, CCTV coverage, Videography and Digital cameras will also be deployed inside critical polling booths and polling booths in vulnerable areas to closely monitor the proceedings on the poll day without violating secrecy of voting process. On 25th Feb, 2021, Commission has directed that arrangements for web casting shall be done in critical polling stations and all polling stations in vulnerable areas or at least in 50% of total polling stations including auxiliary polling stations, whichever is higher.

28. Measures to Prevent Public Nuisance-

The Commission has directed that the use of public address system or loudspeakers or any sound amplifier, whether fitted on vehicles of any kind whatsoever, or in static position used for public meetings for electioneering purposes, during the entire election period starting from the date of announcement of election and ending with the date of declaration of results, shall not be permitted at night between **08:00 p.m. and 08.00 a.m.**

Further, no loudspeakers fitted on vehicles of any kind or in any other manner whatsoever shall be permitted to be used during the period of 48 hours ending with the hour fixed for the conclusion of the poll in any polling area.

29. Law and Order, Security Arrangements and Deployment of Forces-

Conduct of elections involves elaborate security management, which includes not just the security of polling personnel, polling stations and polling materials, but also the overall security of the election process. Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) are deployed to supplement the local police force in ensuring a peaceful and conducive atmosphere for the smooth conduct of elections in a free, fair and credible manner.

Based on the assessment of the ground situation, Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) and State Armed Police (SAP) drawn from other States will be deployed during the election. The CAPFs shall be deployed well in advance for area domination, route marches in vulnerable pockets, point patrolling and other confidence building measures to re-assure and build faith in the minds of the voters, especially those belonging to the weaker sections, minorities etc. CAPFs shall be inducted well in time for undertaking area familiarization and hand-holding with local forces and all other standard security protocols for movement, enforcement activities etc in these areas will be strictly adhered to. The CAPFs/SAP shall also be deployed in Expenditure Sensitive Constituencies and other vulnerable areas and critical polling stations as per the assessment of ground realities by the CEOs of Goa, Manipur, Punjab Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh, in consultation with various stakeholders. On the eve of Poll, the CAPFs/SAP shall take position and control of the respective polling stations and will be responsible for safeguarding the polling stations and for providing security to the electors

and polling personnel on the poll day. Besides, these forces will secure the strong rooms where EVMs and VVPATs are stored and for securing the counting centres and for other purposes, as required. The entire force deployment in the assembly segments shall be under the oversight of the Central Observers deputed by the Commission.

To ensure optimum and effective utilization of State Police official and CAPF, Commission has directed that a committee of CEO, State Police Nodal Officer and State CAPF Coordinate to jointly decide the Election Security Plan and ensure randomization of State Police and CAPF personnel.

30. Protection to Electors of SC/ST and Other Weaker Sections-

As per Section 3 (1) of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 (as amended in 2015), 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 for a particular candidate or to vote in a manner other than that provided by law, or not to stand as a candidate etc., 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 Goa, Manipur, Punjab Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh to bring these provisions to the notice of all concerned for prompt action. In order to bolster the confidence of the voters hailing from vulnerable sections especially SCs, STs etc. and enhance their conviction and faith in the purity and credibility of the poll process, CAPFs/SAP shall be extensively and vigorously utilized in patrolling conducting route marches and undertaking other necessary confidence building measures under the supervision of the Central Observers.

31. Election Expenditure Monitoring-

- **Enhancement in candidate's limit on expenses-** On the recommendation of ECI, vide Notification dated Jan 6, 2022, Ministry of Law and Justice has increased the limits on candidate expenses
- **As per revised limits, pertinent to these 5 elections, the limit on candidate expenditure for the states of Punjab, Uttarakhand and UP will now be Rs 40 lakhs and for Goa and Manipur it shall be Rs 28 lakhs.**

Comprehensive instructions for the purpose of effective monitoring of the election expenditure of the candidates have been issued, which include formation of Flying Squads (FS), Static Surveillance Teams (SST), Video Surveillance Teams (VST), involvement of State Police, Investigation Directorate of Income Tax Deptt., Enforcement Directorate, Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU-IND), DRI, RPF, CBIC, SSB, ICG, Commercial Tax Department and Narcotics Control Bureau. State Excise Department has been asked to monitor production, distribution, sale and storage of liquor and inducements in the form of free goods during the election process. The functioning and operations of the Flying Squads/Mobile Teams shall be closely monitored using GPS Tracking/and the use of c-VIGIL App. For greater transparency and for ease of monitoring of Election Expenses, candidates would be required to open a separate bank account and incur their election expenses from only that account. The Investigation Directorate of Income Tax Dept. has been asked to activate Air Intelligence Units in the airports of the State and also to gather intelligence and take necessary action to check movement of large sums of money in Goa, Manipur, Punjab Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh.

Some new initiatives taken by the Commission to strengthen the Expenditure Monitoring mechanism are:

(1) Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for seizure and release of cash:

For the purpose of maintaining purity of elections, the Election Commission of India has issued a Standard Operating Procedure for Flying Squads and Static Surveillance Teams, constituted for keeping vigil over excessive campaign expenses, distribution of items of bribe in cash or in kind, movement of illegal arms, ammunition, liquor, or antisocial elements etc. in the constituencies during election process. Furthermore, in order to avoid inconvenience to the public and also for redressal of their grievances, if any, the Commission has issued instruction no. 76/Instructions/EEPS/2015/ Vol-II dated 29.05.2015 stating that a committee shall be formed comprising three officers of the District, namely, (i) CEO, Zila Parishad/CDO/P.D, DRDA (ii) Nodal Officer of Expenditure Monitoring in the District Election Office (Convener) and (iii) District Treasury Officer. The Committee shall suo-moto examine each case of seizure made by the Police or SST or FS and where the Committee finds that no FIR/Complaint has been filed against the seizure or where the seizure is not linked with any candidate or political party or any election campaign etc., as per SOP, it shall take immediate steps to order release of such cash etc. to such persons from whom the cash was seized after passing a speaking order to that effect. In no case, shall any matter relating to seized cash/seized valuables shall be kept pending in Malkhana or treasury for more than 7(seven) days after the date of poll, unless any FIR/Complaint is filed.

(2) Accounting of the expenditure incurred for campaign vehicles –It has

come to the notice of the Commission that the candidates take permission from the Returning Officer for use of vehicles for campaign purpose, but some candidates do not show the vehicle hiring charges

or fuel expenses in their election expenditure account. Therefore, it has been decided that unless the candidate intimates the R.O. regarding withdrawing vehicles from campaigning, the notional expenditure on account of campaign vehicles will be calculated based on the number of vehicles for which permission has been granted by the Returning Officer.

(3) Account Reconciliation Meeting: In order to reduce litigation relating to expenditure accounts of contesting candidates, a reconciliation meeting will be convened by the DEOs before final submission of the accounts, on the 26th day after the declaration of the results.

(4) Accounting of Expenditure on publicity of criminal antecedents: In Pursuance of Hon'ble Supreme Court Judgement dated 25.09.2018 in WP(C) No. 536 of 2011, the candidates as well as the concerned political parties shall issue a declaration, in the format prescribed, in widely circulated newspapers and on electronic media in the state regarding the criminal antecedents of the candidates at least thrice after filing of the nomination papers. Candidates are required to maintain expenditure incurred by them in this regard in their accounts and the same shall be reflected in their Abstract Statement of election expenses to be submitted by them to the concerned DEOs along with their accounts of election expenses within 30 days of declaration of results. Political parties are also required to show the amount incurred by them in this regard in their Statement of Election Expenses to be submitted by them to ECI (recognized political party)/ CEO (unrecognized political party) within 75 days of completion of Assembly Election.

(5) Expenditure incurred on candidates' Booth/(Kiosk) and on TV/Cable Channel / Newspaper owned by party for promoting the electoral prospects of the candidate in the account of the candidate:

The Commission, on further examination of the relevant provisions of section 77(1) of the R. P. Act, 1951, had decided that the candidates' booths set up outside the polling stations should hereinafter be deemed to have been set up by the candidates as part of their individual campaign and not by way of general party propaganda and as such all expenditure incurred on such candidates' booths shall be deemed to have been incurred/authorized by the candidate/his election agent so as to be included in his account of election expenses.

Further, the Commission, after taking into consideration various references/complaints from various sources in the above matter, has directed that if the candidate(s) or their sponsoring parties utilize TV/Cable Channels/Newspapers owned by them for promoting the electoral prospects of the candidate, the expenses for the same, as per standard rate cards of the channel/newspaper, have to be included by the candidate concerned in his Election Expenditure Statement, even if they actually do not pay any amount to the channel/newspaper. In pursuance of the Commission's aforesaid decisions, Schedule 6 and Schedule 4 in Abstract Statement of Election Expenses have been amended and incorporated accordingly in the Compendium of Instructions on Election Expenditure Monitoring.

(6) Final Accounts by Political Parties:

All Political Parties sponsoring candidates for the Legislative Assembly elections are required to maintain day-to-day accounts of all election campaign expenses and submit the final accounts to the Commission/CEO within 75 days of the completion of such election.

Such accounts will be uploaded on the website of the Commission for public viewing. For the sake of transparency and reconciliation of accounts of political parties and candidates, the political parties have to file a part Election Expenditure statement in addition to the final statement of election expenditure in respect of lump-sum payments made by the party to the candidate within 30 days after declaration of results of election to Legislative Assemblies in prescribed format.

32. Effective use of Media-

(1) Media Engagement:

Commission has always considered Media as an important ally and a potent force multiplier in ensuring an effective and efficient election management. Hence, the Commission has directed the CEOs of **poll going States** i.e. Goa, Manipur, Punjab, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh to take the following measures for positive and progressive engagement and interaction with the media:

- i) Regular interaction with the media during elections and maintaining an effective and positive line of communication with media at all times.
- ii) Effective steps to sensitize the media about the Election Code.
- iii) Authority letters will be issued to all accredited media for the polling day and day of counting.

Media is also expected to follow all the extant guidelines issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoH&FW) regarding COVID containment measures during all their election related coverage. Besides, the guidelines issued by the Election Commission of India today with regard to conduct of elections during

COVID shall also be applied while giving access to the media persons for the coverage of election process during polling and counting of votes etc.

(2) Pre-Certification of Political Advertisements and monitoring of suspected cases of paid news:

Media Certification and Monitoring Committees (MCMC) are in place at all the Districts and State level. All political advertisements proposed to be issued on electronic media shall require pre-certification from the concerned MCMC.

Political advertisements in all electronic media/TV Channels/Cable Network/Radio including private FM channels/Cinema halls/audio-visual displays in public places/voice messages & bulk SMS over phone and social media & internet websites shall come within the purview of pre-certification.

MCMCs will also keep a strict vigil on suspected cases of paid news in media and suitable action will be taken in confirmed cases after following all due procedure.

Commission has doubled the allocated time to all recognised parties for publicity of election matters.

(3) Use of Social Media in election:

Keeping in view increasing incidents of misuse of Social Media & menace of Paid News and as a result of ECI's vigorous persuasion, major Social Media Platforms agreed to observe **Voluntary Code of Ethics** formulated by them in March 2019. These will be applicable in these elections as well as in other elections.

Commission requests all Political Parties and candidates to ensure that their supporters do not indulge in hate speeches and fake news. Strict watch on social media posts is being kept to ensure that election atmosphere is not vitiated.

(4) Monitoring of Electronic and Social Media:

All the election management related news on all the major national and regional news channels during elections would be monitored vigorously. If any untoward incident or violation of any law/rule is noticed, action would be taken immediately. Reports of monitoring would also be forwarded to the CEOs concerned. Office of CEO will ascertain status on each and every item and file ATR/Status Report.

33. Training of Election Officials-

India International Institute of Democracy and Election management (IIIDEM) has organized the following training programme for various Election functionaries connected with upcoming General Election to the Legislative assemblies of Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Manipur and Goa.

1)The themes of the training were as under:

- a) Nomination Process, Qualification and Disqualification, Nomination, Scrutiny, Withdrawal of Candidature and Allotment of Symbols**
- b) EVM-VVPAT, Counting and Declaration of Result**
- c) Vulnerability Mapping, DEMP, Polling Party & Poll Day Arrangement**
- d) Postal Ballot, ETPBS and various IT applications**
- e) Model Code of Conduct, Expenditure Monitoring and SVEEP**

2)Online orientation programme on COVID Guidelines.

An online orientation programme on COVID Guidelines was conducted for the Health Secretaries, COVID Nodal Officers, Officers from CEOs Office and DEOs of Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Manipur, Goa and Punjab on 21st September, 2021. Total 386 participants had joined the programme. Shri Aariz Aftab, CEO, West Bengal along with Shri Pratyaya Amrit, Additional Chief Secretary, Bihar had shared their experience regarding the conduct of elections in their States during COVID.

3) Evaluation programme for ROs and AROs

- a) Evaluation programme for ROs of Uttar Pradesh and ROs and AROs of Uttarakhand was organized on 18th November, 2021 at Lucknow, Agra & Gorakhpur in Uttar Pradesh and at Dehradun and Udham Singh Nagar in Uttarakhand respectively. The evaluation was organized for only those ROs and AROs who attended the Certification programme organized in the concerned States.
- b) Evaluation programme for ROs and AROs of Goa, Manipur and Punjab was organized on 10th December, 2021atfor those ROs and AROs who attended the Certification programme organized at North Goa in Goa, Imphal in Manipur and at Jalandhar, Patiala & Bhatinda in Punjab for those ROs & AROs who attended the Certification programme organized at their respective States.

34. Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP)-

- a) Free, fair, accessible, inclusive, transparent and ethical elections build a truly participative democracy by encouraging all eligible citizens to vote and make an informed decision during elections. Working on the premise of 'No

Voter to be Left Behind’, Election Commission of India strives relentlessly to ensure participative, inclusive, inducement free and accessible elections in the world's largest democracy through the Systematic Voters’ Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) programme.

b) SVEEP places its focus on the voters- the central actors of democracy. Reaching out throughout novel initiatives like Electoral Literacy Clubs, Web Radio Hello Voters, Nationwide celebrations of National Voters' Day, and mass mobilization of voters through 360-degree communication and door to door interventions have been the foundation of ECI's voter outreach efforts.

c) In view of current situation of the pandemic, special outreach activities are being implemented to enhance voter awareness and publicize the mandatory safety protocols during elections. Contactless and digital mediums for all outreach activities i.e Television, Print, Digital Media and other media vehicles are being utilized as a part of overall 360-degree communication towards voter education, motivation and facilitation.

d) In order to educate & facilitate voters, ECI has brought in some new initiatives for the upcoming assembly elections. These initiatives include an EPIC kit to the newly registered voters, a pocket size Voters’ guide to every household, polling booth being the focal point of communication and Minimum level of SVEEP activities at every booth.

e) As voter registration and reception of EPIC card is the point of first formal interaction of newly registered voters, a need was felt to standardize the experience and give a personalized touch to the EPIC delivery. All CEOs/DEOs therefore have been directed to hand over/deliver/courier this EPIC SVEEP kit to newly registered electors, which contains a personalized letter to the elector along with a voter guide and voters’ pledge.

f) Commission has also developed a pocket size version of the voter guide, for ease of information access to electors. This pocket size booklet provides

important information for voters' regarding location of polling stations, election related queries, searching of name in the voter list and COVID safety measures. The voters' guide would be provided to every household.

g) Revitalizing Electoral Literacy Clubs during Covid period through use of online mode of communication, is also a major focus of the Commission. With regards to the same, Guidelines for Online Activities at ELCs have been shared with Chief Electoral Offices recently.

h) Furthermore, with Booth being the focal point for SVEEP strategy, the Commission has directed the states to strengthen Booth Level Action Plans and to conduct Minimum level of SVEEP activities to inform and educate all voters. This includes explanatory information displays regarding EVM-VVPAT, Voter Registration, Ethical Voting & IT Apps at all polling stations and crowded locations in the assembly constituency. Polling stations would be given a festive look through minimum level of décor. Low voter turnout Polling Stations have been identified with reasons for low turnout analysed and targeted interventions planned in accordance to meet the objective of 'No Voter to be Left Behind'.

i) With the objective to reaching out to Women Voters, 'All-Women Managed Polling Stations' is an initiative committed towards gender equality and greater participation of women in the electoral process. These booths which are set up in each constituency comprise of all woman staff including security. Similarly, PwD managed polling stations are to be developed in each assembly constituency to give further fillip to accessible and participative elections.

j) Voter Facilitation Centers will be active in the States to facilitate voters. Besides this, Voter Helpline Number 1950 and Voter Helpline App would also cater to voter's queries. An SMS facility is available on 1950 to enable electors to verify their names on the Electoral Roll.

k) Subsequent to Hon'ble Supreme Court's order, criminal antecedents of the contesting candidates are to be made available to the voters. In this regard, a dedicated multimedia campaign is proposed to generate awareness amongst the voters to encourage informed and ethical voting.

Further, keeping in view the possibility of advent of Covid wave, SVEEP activities are planned to inform and educate voters towards Covid Safe elections and covid appropriate behaviour during elections.

35. Deployment of Central Observers-

(1) General Observers

The Commission will deploy IAS officers as General Observers in adequate number to ensure smooth conduct of election. The Observers will be asked to keep a close watch on every stage of the electoral process to ensure free and fair election.

(2) Police Observers

The Commission would deploy IPS officers as Police Observers at District/AC level, depending upon the need, sensitivity and assessment of ground situation of the District/AC, wherever required. They will monitor all activities relating to force deployment, law and order and co-ordinate with Civil and Police administration to ensure peaceful, free and fair election.

(3) Special Observers

In exercise of the plenary powers conferred on it by Article 324 of the Constitution of India, the Commission deploys Special Observers who belong to All India Services and various Central Services.

(4) Expenditure Observers

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

expenditure of the contesting candidates. Control room and Complaint Monitoring Centre with 24 hours toll free numbers shall be operative during the entire election process. Banks and Financial Intelligence Units of Government of India have been asked to forward Suspicious Transaction Reports (STRs) to the election officials. Comprehensive instructions for the purpose of effective monitoring of the election expenditure of the candidates have been separately issued by the Commission and are available on the ECI website (<https://eci.gov.in/>).

(5) Micro Observers

As per the extant instructions, General Observers will also deploy Micro Observers, from amongst Central Government/PSUs Officials, to observe the poll proceedings on the poll day in critical/vulnerable polling stations. Micro Observers will observe the proceedings at the polling stations on the poll day, right from the conduct of mock poll, to the completion of poll and the process of sealing of EVMs and VVPATs and other documents so as to ensure that all instructions of the Commission are complied with by the Polling Parties and the Polling Agents. They will report to the General Observers directly regarding any vitiation of the poll proceedings in their allotted polling stations.

36. Use of IT in election management -

The Commission has enhanced usage of IT Application, to usher in greater citizen participation and transparency.

Following is a brief outline of the IT applications to be used:

- 1) **cVIGIL Application for filing Model Code of Conduct Violation cases by citizen:** cVIGIL provides time-stamped evidentiary proof of the Model Code of Conduct / Expenditure Violation by empowering every citizen

to click a photo or video using his or her smartphone. The application is based on GIS technology and the unique feature of auto location provides fairly correct information which can be relied upon by flying squads to navigate to the right spot of incidence and take prompt action. This app prioritizes the speedy and effective action by authorities and promises status report within 100 minutes.

The Application is available on both the Google Play Store and Apple App Store.

- 2) **Suvidha Portal:** This portal provides various facilities to candidates/ political parties for online nominations, filing for Permissions etc. as given below-

a) Candidate Online Nomination:

To facilitate filling of nominations, Election Commission has introduced an online portal for filling Nomination & Affidavit. The Candidate can visit <https://suvidha.eci.gov.in/> to create her/his account, fill nomination form, deposit the security amount, check availability of time slot and appropriately plan the visit to the Returning Officer.

Once the application is filled through the online portal, the candidate only needs to take a printout, get it notarized and submit the application along with relevant documents to the Returning Officer in person.

The Online Nomination Facility is an optional facility to facilitate ease of filing and correct filing. The regular offline submission as prescribed under the law shall continue too.

b) **Candidate *Permissions module*:** Permission module allows candidates, political parties or any representatives of the candidate to apply online for the permission for meetings, rallies, loudspeakers, temporary offices, and others through SUVIDHA Portal <https://suvidha.eci.gov.in/>. The Candidates can also track their application status through the same portal.

c) **Suvidha Candidate App.**

In view of COVID-19, the Commission has directed that allocation of public spaces for meetings, rallies must be done using the Suvidha app as far as practicable.

The application will be available during elections for Candidates / Political Parties / Agents to download and use to track the nomination and permission status from the Google Play store.

d) **Candidate *Affidavit Portal*:** The Complete list of Contesting Candidates with their profile, nomination status and the affidavits will be available for public view through Candidate Affidavit Portal: <https://affidavit.eci.gov.in/>

3) **Electronically Transmitted Postal Ballot System (ETPBS) for Service Voter:**

Electronically Transmitted Postal Ballot System (ETPBS) will transmit blank Postal Ballot through Electronic means to the Service Voters. Service voters can then send their vote through speed post.

4) **Persons with Disability Application (PwD) App:**

PwD app is a tool to facilitate Persons with Disabilities. The PwD electors can use this app to request for marking them as PwD, apply for new registration, migration, correction in EPIC details, request for wheelchair etc. It utilises the Accessibility features of mobile phones for voters with

blindness and hearing disabilities. The PwD app is available on the Google Play Store and Apple App store.

5) Voter Turnout App:

Voter Turnout App will be used to display real-time estimated provisional voter turnout details of each Assembly Constituency/ Parliamentary Constituency entered by Returning officer. The application can also be used by the media to capture live estimated voter turnout data. All phases of the elections will be displayed through this app in real-time. The application is available on the Google Play store.

6) ENCORE Counting:

The ENCORE counting application <https://encore.eci.gov.in/> is an end-to-end application for Returning Officers to digitize the votes polled, tabulate the round-wise data and then take out various statutory reports of counting.

7) Results Website and Results Trends TV:

The timely publication of the round-wise information is vital for establishing a single source of authentic data. The counting data entered by respective Returning Officers is available as 'Trends and Results' for public view through 'ECI Results website' <http://results.eci.gov.in/>,

The results are shown with the Infographics and displayed with auto-scroll panels through large display screens outside the counting hall or any public place.

8) EVM Management System (EMS):

EVM Management System is designed to manage inventory of EVM units. One of the important modes to ensure a fair and transparent process in EVM management is the administrative protocol of the randomization of

the machines before they are deployed in the Polling stations. The randomization is done in the presence of Political Parties' representatives.

9) NVSP, Voter portal (Single Form for Electoral Services) and Voter Helpline App:

Through NVSP (<https://www.nvsp.in/>), a user can avail and access various services such as access the electoral list, apply for voter id card, apply online for corrections in voter's card, view details of Polling booth, Assembly Constituency and Parliamentary constituency, and get the contact details of Booth Level officer, Electoral Registration Officer among other services.

Similarly, to ease the process of form submission, 'Voter Portal' (<https://voterportal.eci.gov.in/>) provides a seamless interface for registration, alteration in entries, deletion, change of address etc. Upon logging into the portal, the citizen is now presented with an interactive interface suggesting selection of choice based upon his previous selection.

10) Voter Helpline App(VHA):

Citizen can avail and access various services such as apply for voter id card, apply online for corrections in voter's card, view details of Polling booth, Assembly Constituency and Parliamentary constituency, and get the contact details of Booth Level officer, Electoral Registration Officer among other services. The application is available on both the Google Play & Apple Store.

'Know Your Candidate' App will also be available for electors to know about the background (including criminal antecedents) of the candidate(s)

11) National Grievances Services Portal:

A comprehensive National Grievance Service Portal (NGSP) has been developed by the Election Commission. It functions as single window system and people can directly lodge IFSC (Information, Feedback, suggestion and Complaints) into this portal. IFSC can be captured via a different medium like Online mode (Portal, Contact Centre & email). Since all Electoral Officers, District Election Officers, CEO and ECI Officials are part of this system, grievances/ issues are directly assigned to the respective user upon registration. The portal can be accessed from the online link here: <https://eci-citizenservices.eci.nic.in>.

37. 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. 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.

On the recommendation of ECI, Union Health Ministry has issued orders on 8th February 2021 that all election officials and employees will be treated as frontline workers and will be vaccinated for COVID.

38. Schedules of General Elections

The Commission has prepared the Schedules for holding General Election to the Legislative Assemblies of Goa, Manipur, Punjab, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh after taking into consideration all relevant aspects like climatic conditions, academic calendar, board examination, major festivals, prevailing

law and order situation in the State, availability of Central Armed Police Forces, time needed for movement, transportation and timely deployment of forces and in-depth assessment of other relevant ground realities.

In view of COVID-19, Commission has decided to extend the poll timing by 1 hour in all ACs except in LWE areas.

The Commission, after considering all relevant aspects has decided to recommend to the Governor of the States of Goa, Manipur, Punjab, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh to issue notifications for the General Election under the relevant provisions of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, as per the **Annexure-1-5**.

The Commission seeks the active cooperation, close collaboration and constructive partnership of all the esteemed stakeholders in the electoral process and strives to employ the collective synergies towards delivering a smooth, free, fair, peaceful, participative and festive General Assembly Elections, 2022 in Goa, Manipur, Punjab, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh.

Sd/-
(SANJEEV KUMAR PRASAD)
SECRETARY

SCHEDULE**A: Schedule for General Election to the Legislative Assembly of Goa:**

Poll Events	Single Phase (All 40 ACs)
Date of Issue of Notification	21-01-2022 (Friday)
Last date of making nomination	28-01-2022 (Friday)
Date of Scrutiny	29-01-2022 (Saturday)
Last date of withdrawal	31-01-2022 (Monday)
Date of Poll	14-02-2022 (Monday)
Date of Counting	10-03-2022 (Thursday)
Date of completion	12-03-2022 (Saturday)

***Details of ACs going to poll enclosed.**

List of Forty (40) Assembly Constituencies of Goa going to polls in Single Phase as per Annexure-1

Sl.No.	Assembly Constituency No. and Name
1.	1 - Mandrem
2.	2 - Pernem (SC)
3.	3 - Bicholim
4.	4 - Tivim
5.	5 - Mapusa
6.	6 - Siolim
7.	7 - Saligao
8.	8 - Calangute
9.	9 - Porvorim
10.	10 - Aldona
11.	11 - Panaji
12.	12 - Taleigao
13.	13 - St. Cruz
14.	14 - St. Andre
15.	15 - Cumbarjua
16.	16 - Maem
17.	17 - Sanquelim
18.	18 - Poriem
19.	19 - Valpoi
20.	20 - Priol
21.	21 - Ponda
22.	22 - Siroda
23.	23 - Marcaim
24.	24 - Mormugao
25.	25 - Vasco-Da-Gama
26.	26 - Dabolim
27.	27 - Cortalim
28.	28 - Nuvem
29.	29 - Curtorim
30.	30 - Fatorda
31.	31 - Margao
32.	32 - Benaulim
33.	33 - Navelim
34.	34 - Cuncolim
35.	35 - Velim
36.	36 - Quepem
37.	37 - Curchorem
38.	38 - Sanvordem
39.	39 - Sanguem
40.	40 - Canacona

General Election to Legislative Assembly of Goa - 2022



SCHEDULE**A: Schedule for General Election to the Legislative Assembly of Manipur:**

Poll Events	Phase-V (38 ACs)	Phase-VI (22 ACs)
Date of Issue of Notification	01-02-2022 (Tuesday)	04-02-2022 (Friday)
Last date of making nomination	08-02-2022 (Tuesday)	11-02-2022 (Friday)
Date of Scrutiny	09-02-2022 (Wednesday)	14-02-2022 (Monday)
Last date of withdrawal	11-02-2022 (Friday)	16-02-2022 (Wednesday)
Date of Poll	27-02-2022 (Sunday)	03-03-2022 (Thursday)
Date of Counting	10-03-2022 (Thursday)	10-03-2022 (Thursday)
Date of completion	12-03-2022 (Saturday)	12-03-2022 (Saturday)

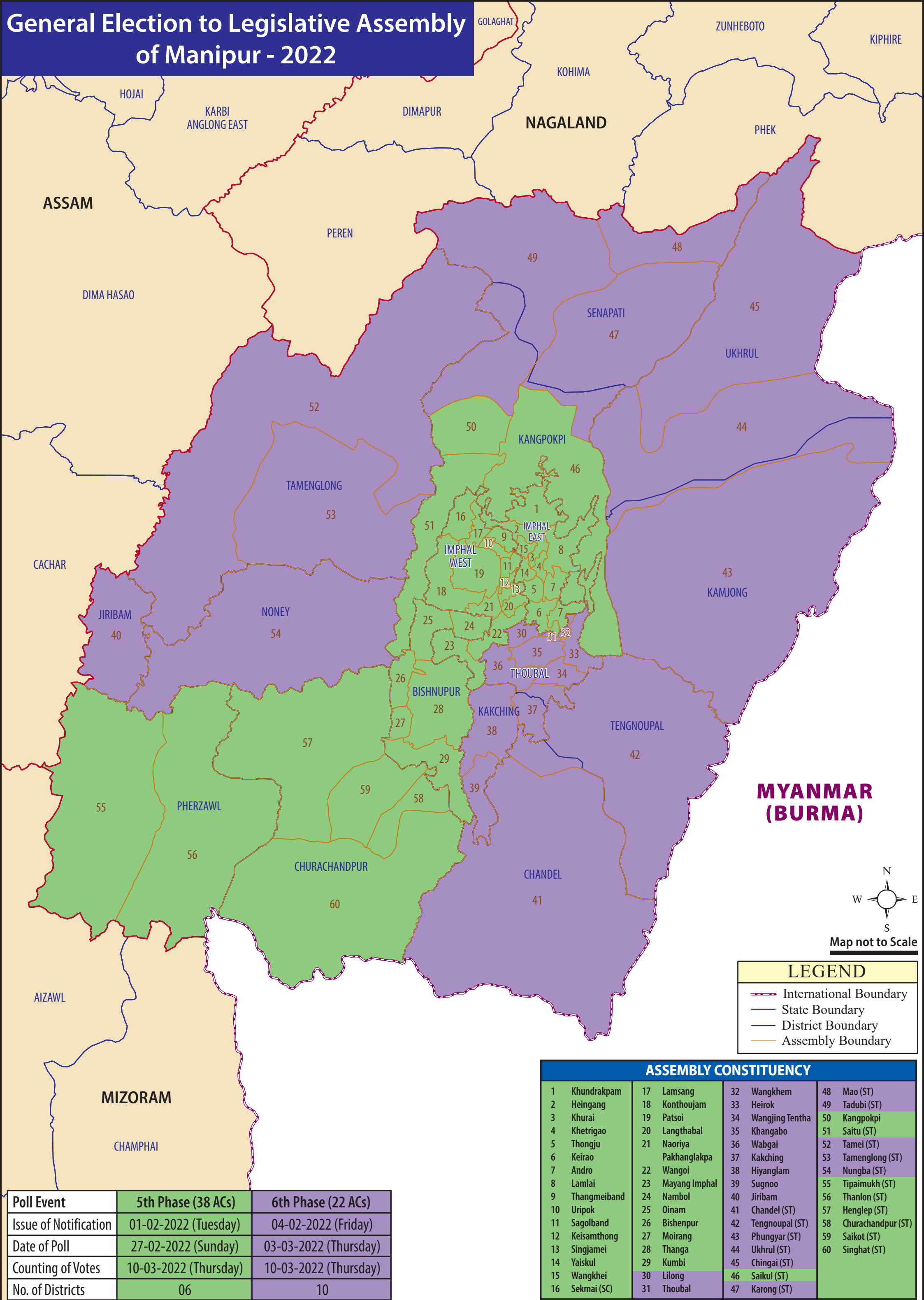
***Details of ACs going to poll during the phases enclosed.**

**List of Sixty (60) Assembly Constituencies of Manipur going to polls in Phase-I as per
Annexure-2**

Sl.No.	Assembly Constituency No. and Name	
1.	1	- Khundrakpam
2.	2	- Heingang
3.	3	- Khurai
4.	4	- Khetrigao
5.	5	- Thongju
6.	6	- Keirao
7.	7	- Andro
8.	8	- Lamlai
9.	9	- Thangmeiband
10.	10	- Uripok
11.	11	- Sagolband
12.	12	- Keisamthong
13.	13	- Singjamei
14.	14	- Yaiskul
15.	15	- Wangkhei
16.	16	- Sekmai (SC)
17.	17	- Lamsang
18.	18	- Konthoujam
19.	19	- Patsoi
20.	20	- Langthabal
21.	21	- Naoriya Pakhanglakpa
22.	22	- Wangoi
23.	23	- Mayang Imphal
24.	24	- Nambol
25.	25	- Oinam
26.	26	- Bishenpur
27.	27	- Moirang
28.	28	- Thanga
29.	29	- Kumbi
30.	30	- Lilong
31.	31	- Thoubal
32.	32	- Wangkhem
33.	33	- Heirok
34.	34	- Wangjing Tentha
35.	35	- Khangabo

36.	36	- Wabgai
37.	37	- Kakching
38.	38	- Hiyanglam
39.	39	- Sugnoo
40.	40	- Jiribam
41.	41	- Chandel (ST)
42.	42	- Tengnoupal (ST)
43.	43	- Phungyar (ST)
44.	44	- Ukhrul (ST)
45.	45	- Chingai (ST)
46.	46	- Saikul (ST)
47.	47	- Karong (ST)
48.	48	- Mao (ST)
49.	49	- Tadubi (ST)
50.	50	- Kangpokpi
51.	51	- Saitu (ST)
52.	52	- Tamei (ST)
53.	53	- Tamenglong (ST)
54.	54	- Nungba (ST)
55.	55	- Tipaimukh (ST)
56.	56	- Thanlon (ST)
57.	57	- Henglep (ST)
58.	58	- Churachandpur (ST)
59.	59	- Saikot (ST)
60.	60	- Singhat (ST)

General Election to Legislative Assembly of Manipur - 2022



Poll Event	5th Phase (38 ACs)	6th Phase (22 ACs)
Issue of Notification	01-02-2022 (Tuesday)	04-02-2022 (Friday)
Date of Poll	27-02-2022 (Sunday)	03-03-2022 (Thursday)
Counting of Votes	10-03-2022 (Thursday)	10-03-2022 (Thursday)
No. of Districts	06	10

SCHEDULE**A: Schedule for General Election to the Legislative Assembly of Punjab:**

Poll Events	Single Phase (All 117 ACs)
Date of Issue of Notification	21-01-2022 (Friday)
Last date of making nomination	28-01-2022 (Friday)
Date of Scrutiny	29-01-2022 (Saturday)
Last date of withdrawal	31-01-2022 (Monday)
Date of Poll	14-02-2022 (Monday)
Date of Counting	10-03-2022 (Thursday)
Date of completion	12-03-2022 (Saturday)

***Details of ACs going to poll enclosed.**

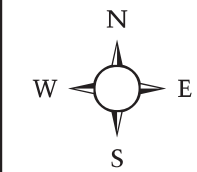
**List of One Hundred Seventeen (117) Assembly Constituencies of Punjab going to polls in
Single Phase as per Annexure-3**

Sl.No.	Assembly Constituency No. and Name
1.	1 - Sujanpur
2.	2 - Bhoa (SC)
3.	3 - Pathankot
4.	4 - Gurdaspur
5.	5 - Dina Nagar (SC)
6.	6 - Qadian
7.	7 - Batala
8.	8 - Sri Hargobindpur (SC)
9.	9 - Fatehgarh Churian
10.	10 - Dera Baba Nanak
11.	11 - Ajnala
12.	12 - Raja Sansi
13.	13 - Majitha
14.	14 - Jandiala (SC)
15.	15 - Amritsar North
16.	16 - Amritsar West (SC)
17.	17 - Amritsar Central
18.	18 - Amritsar East
19.	19 - Amritsar South
20.	20 - Attari (SC)
21.	21 - Tarn Taran
22.	22 - Khem Karan
23.	23 - Patti
24.	24 - Khadoor Sahib
25.	25 - Baba Bakala (SC)
26.	26 - Bholath
27.	27 - Kapurthala
28.	28 - Sultanpur Lodhi
29.	29 - Phagwara (SC)
30.	30 - Phillaur (SC)
31.	31 - Nakodar
32.	32 - Shahkot
33.	33 - Kartarpur (SC)
34.	34 - Jalandhar West (SC)
35.	35 - Jalandhar Central
36.	36 - Jalandhar North
37.	37 - Jalandhar Cantt.
38.	38 - Adampur (SC)
39.	39 - Mukerian

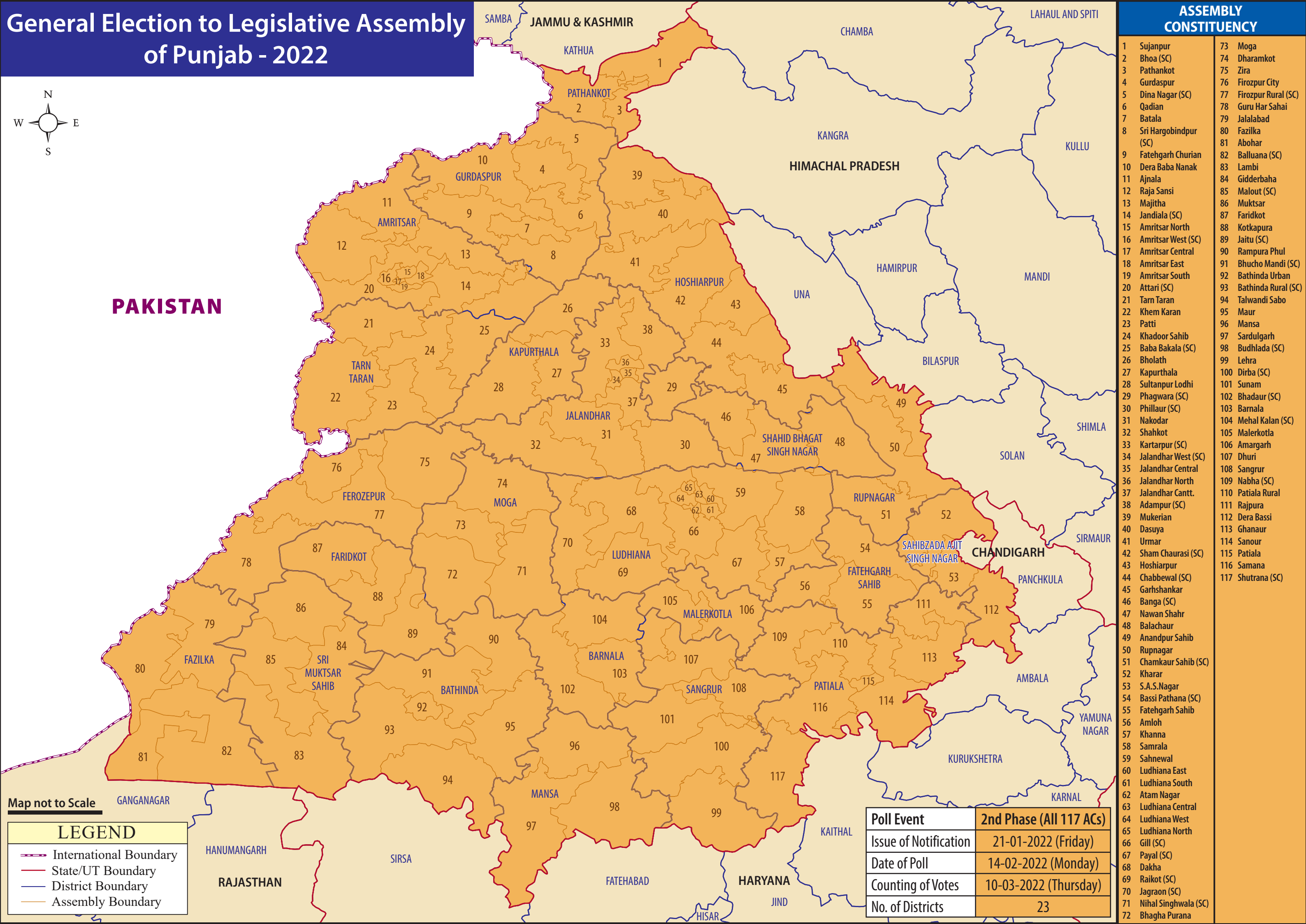
40.	40	-	Dasuya
41.	41	-	Urmar
42.	42	-	Sham Chaurasi (SC)
43.	43	-	Hoshiarpur
44.	44	-	Chabbewal (SC)
45.	45	-	Garhshankar
46.	46	-	Banga (SC)
47.	47	-	Nawan Shahr
48.	48	-	Balachaur
49.	49	-	Anandpur Sahib
50.	50	-	Rupnagar
51.	51	-	Chamkaur Sahib (SC)
52.	52	-	Kharar
53.	53	-	S.A.S.Nagar
54.	54	-	Bassi Pathana (SC)
55.	55	-	Fatehgarh Sahib
56.	56	-	Amloh
57.	57	-	Khanna
58.	58	-	Samrala
59.	59	-	Sahnewal
60.	60	-	Ludhiana East
61.	61	-	Ludhiana South
62.	62	-	Atam Nagar
63.	63	-	Ludhiana Central
64.	64	-	Ludhiana West
65.	65	-	Ludhiana North
66.	66	-	Gill (SC)
67.	67	-	Payal (SC)
68.	68	-	Dakha
69.	69	-	Raikot (SC)
70.	70	-	Jagraon (SC)
71.	71	-	Nihal Singhwala (SC)
72.	72	-	Bhagha Purana
73.	73	-	Moga
74.	74	-	Dharamkot
75.	75	-	Zira
76.	76	-	Firozpur City
77.	77	-	Firozpur Rural (SC)
78.	78	-	Guru Har Sahai
79.	79	-	Jalalabad
80.	80	-	Fazilka
81.	81	-	Abohar
82.	82	-	Balluana (SC)
83.	83	-	Lambi

84.	84	-	Gidderbaha
85.	85	-	Malout (SC)
86.	86	-	Muktsar
87.	87	-	Faridkot
88.	88	-	Kotkapura
89.	89	-	Jaitu (SC)
90.	90	-	Rampura Phul
91.	91	-	Bhucho Mandi (SC)
92.	92	-	Bathinda Urban
93.	93	-	Bathinda Rural (SC)
94.	94	-	Talwandi Sabo
95.	95	-	Maur
96.	96	-	Mansa
97.	97	-	Sardulgarh
98.	98	-	Budhlada (SC)
99.	99	-	Lehra
100.	100	-	Dirba (SC)
101.	101	-	Sunam
102.	102	-	Bhadaur (SC)
103.	103	-	Barnala
104.	104	-	Mehal Kalan (SC)
105.	105	-	Malerkotla
106.	106	-	Amargarh
107.	107	-	Dhuri
108.	108	-	Sangrur
109.	109	-	Nabha (SC)
110.	110	-	Patiala Rural
111.	111	-	Rajpura
112.	112	-	Dera Bassi
113.	113	-	Ghanaur
114.	114	-	Sanour
115.	115	-	Patiala
116.	116	-	Samana
117.	117	-	Shutrana (SC)

General Election to Legislative Assembly of Punjab - 2022



PAKISTAN



ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY	
1	Sujanpur
2	Bhoa (SC)
3	Pathankot
4	Gurdaspur
5	Dina Nagar (SC)
6	Qadian
7	Batala
8	Sri Hargobindpur (SC)
9	Fatehgarh Churian
10	Dera Baba Nanak
11	Ajnala
12	Raja Sansi
13	Majitha
14	Jandiala (SC)
15	Amritsar North
16	Amritsar West (SC)
17	Amritsar Central
18	Amritsar East
19	Amritsar South
20	Attari (SC)
21	Tarn Taran
22	Khem Karan
23	Patti
24	Khadoor Sahib
25	Baba Bakala (SC)
26	Bholath
27	Kapurthala
28	Sultanpur Lodhi
29	Phagwara (SC)
30	Phillaur (SC)
31	Nakodar
32	Shahkot
33	Kartarpur (SC)
34	Jalandhar West (SC)
35	Jalandhar Central
36	Jalandhar North
37	Jalandhar Cantt.
38	Adampur (SC)
39	Mukerian
40	Dasuya
41	Urmur
42	Sham Chaurasi (SC)
43	Hoshiarpur
44	Chabbewal (SC)
45	Garhshankar
46	Banga (SC)
47	Nawan Shahr
48	Balachaur
49	Anandpur Sahib
50	Rupnagar
51	Chamkaur Sahib (SC)
52	Kharar
53	S.A.S.Nagar
54	Bassi Pathana (SC)
55	Fatehgarh Sahib
56	Amloh
57	Khanna
58	Samrala
59	Sahnawal
60	Ludhiana East
61	Ludhiana South
62	Atam Nagar
63	Ludhiana Central
64	Ludhiana West
65	Ludhiana North
66	Gill (SC)
67	Payal (SC)
68	Dakha
69	Raikot (SC)
70	Jagraon (SC)
71	Nihal Singhwala (SC)
72	Bhagha Purana
73	Moga
74	Dharamkot
75	Zira
76	Firozpur City
77	Firozpur Rural (SC)
78	Guru Har Sahai
79	Jalalabad
80	Fazilka
81	Abohar
82	Balluana (SC)
83	Lambi
84	Gidderbaha
85	Malout (SC)
86	Muktsar
87	Faridkot
88	Kotkapura
89	Jaitu (SC)
90	Rampura Phul
91	Bhuchio Mandi (SC)
92	Bathinda Urban
93	Bathinda Rural (SC)
94	Talwandi Sabo
95	Maur
96	Mansa
97	Sardulgarh
98	Budhlada (SC)
99	Lehra
100	Dirba (SC)
101	Sunam
102	Bhaddaur (SC)
103	Barnala
104	Mehal Kalan (SC)
105	Malerkotla
106	Amargarh
107	Dhuri
108	Sangrur
109	Nabha (SC)
110	Patiala Rural
111	Rajpura
112	Dera Bassi
113	Ghanaur
114	Sanour
115	Patiala
116	Samana
117	Shutrana (SC)

Map not to Scale

LEGEND

- International Boundary
- State/UT Boundary
- District Boundary
- Assembly Boundary

Poll Event	2nd Phase (All 117 ACs)
Issue of Notification	21-01-2022 (Friday)
Date of Poll	14-02-2022 (Monday)
Counting of Votes	10-03-2022 (Thursday)
No. of Districts	23

SCHEDULE**A: Schedule for General Election to the Legislative Assembly of
Uttarakhand:**

Poll Events	Single Phase (All 70 ACs)
Date of Issue of Notification	21-01-2022 (Friday)
Last date of making nomination	28-01-2022 (Friday)
Date of Scrutiny	29-01-2022 (Saturday)
Last date of withdrawal	31-01-2022 (Monday)
Date of Poll	14-02-2022 (Monday)
Date of Counting	10-03-2022 (Thursday)
Date of completion	12-03-2022 (Saturday)

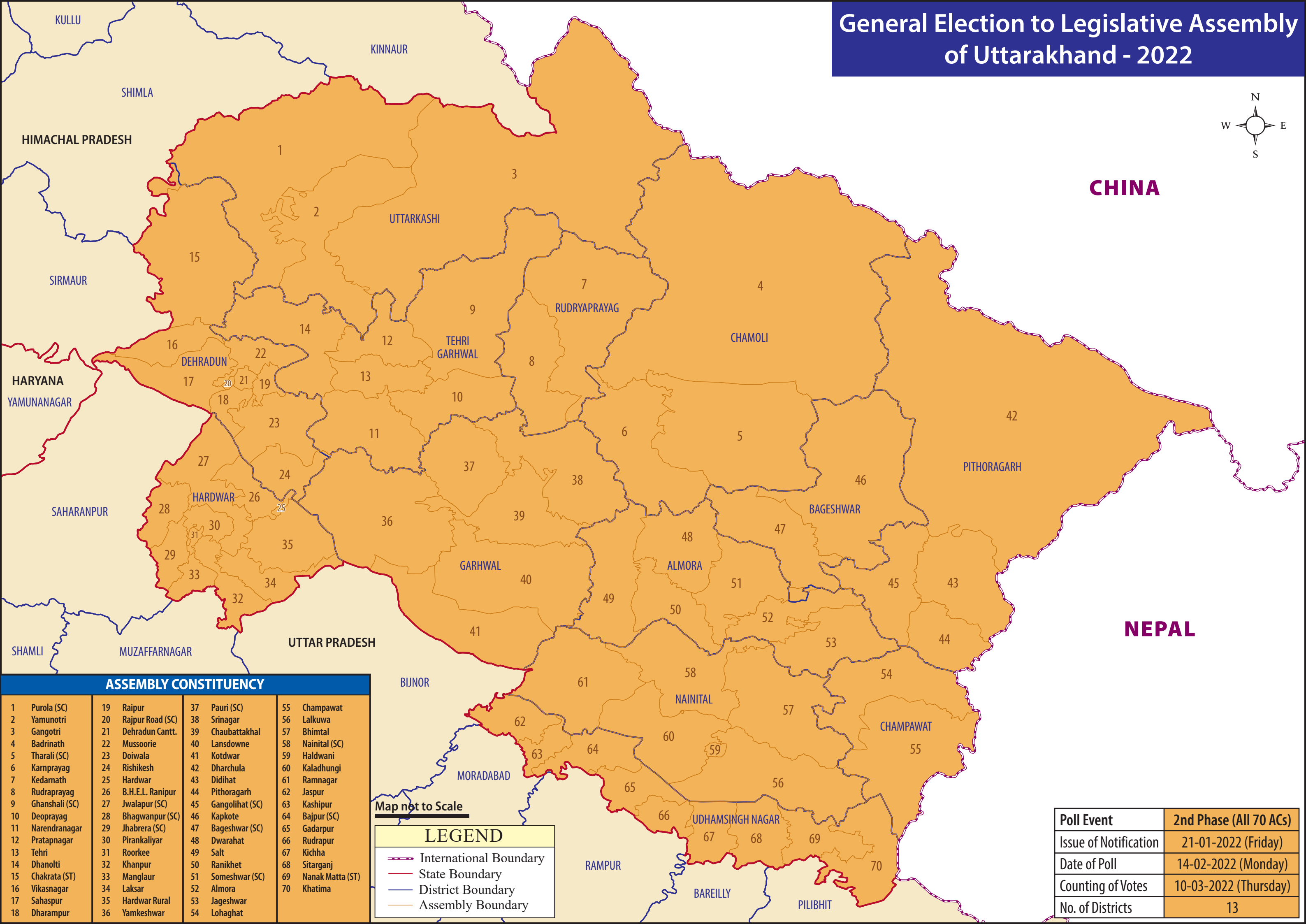
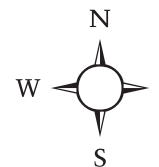
***Details of ACs going to poll enclosed.**

**List of Seventy (70) Assembly Constituencies of Uttarakhand going to polls in Single Phase
as per Annexure-4**

Sl.No.	Assembly Constituency No. and Name
1.	1 - Purola (SC)
2.	2 - Yamunotri
3.	3 - Gangotri
4.	4 - Badrinath
5.	5 - Tharali (SC)
6.	6 - Karnprayag
7.	7 - Kedarnath
8.	8 - Rudraprayag
9.	9 - Ghanshali (SC)
10.	10 - Deoprayag
11.	11 - Narendranagar
12.	12 - Pratapnagar
13.	13 - Tehri
14.	14 - Dhanolti
15.	15 - Chakrata (ST)
16.	16 - Vikasnagar
17.	17 - Sahaspur
18.	18 - Dharampur
19.	19 - Raipur
20.	20 - Rajpur Road (SC)
21.	21 - Dehradun Cantt.
22.	22 - Mussoorie
23.	23 - Doiwala
24.	24 - Rishikesh
25.	25 - Hardwar
26.	26 - B.H.E.L. Ranipur
27.	27 - Jwalapur (SC)
28.	28 - Bhagwanpur (SC)
29.	29 - Jhabrera (SC)
30.	30 - Pirankaliyar
31.	31 - Roorkee
32.	32 - Khanpur
33.	33 - Manglaur
34.	34 - Laksar
35.	35 - Hardwar Rural
36.	36 - Yamkeshwar
37.	37 - Pauri (SC)
38.	38 - Srinagar
39.	39 - Chaubattakhal

40.	40	-	Lansdowne
41.	41	-	Kotdwar
42.	42	-	Dharchula
43.	43	-	Didihat
44.	44	-	Pithoragarh
45.	45	-	Gangolihat (SC)
46.	46	-	Kapkote
47.	47	-	Bageshwar (SC)
48.	48	-	Dwarahat
49.	49	-	Salt
50.	50	-	Ranikhet
51.	51	-	Someshwar (SC)
52.	52	-	Almora
53.	53	-	Jageshwar
54.	54	-	Lohaghat
55.	55	-	Champawat
56.	56	-	Lalkuwa
57.	57	-	Bhimtal
58.	58	-	Nainital (SC)
59.	59	-	Haldwani
60.	60	-	Kaladhungi
61.	61	-	Ramnagar
62.	62	-	Jaspur
63.	63	-	Kashipur
64.	64	-	Bajpur (SC)
65.	65	-	Gadarpur
66.	66	-	Rudrapur
67.	67	-	Kichha
68.	68	-	Sitarganj
69.	69	-	Nanak Matta (ST)
70.	70	-	Khatima

General Election to Legislative Assembly of Uttarakhand - 2022



CHINA

NEPAL

ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY

1	Purola (SC)	19	Raipur	37	Pauri (SC)	55	Champawat
2	Yamunotri	20	Rajpur Road (SC)	38	Srinagar	56	Lalkuwa
3	Gangotri	21	Dehradun Cantt.	39	Chaubattakhal	57	Bhimtal
4	Badrinath	22	Mussoorie	40	Lansdowne	58	Nainital (SC)
5	Tharali (SC)	23	Doiwala	41	Kotdwar	59	Haldwani
6	Kamprayag	24	Rishikesh	42	Dharchula	60	Kaladhungi
7	Kedarnath	25	Hardwar	43	Didihat	61	Ramnagar
8	Rudraprayag	26	B.H.E.L. Ranipur	44	Pithoragarh	62	Jaspur
9	Ghanshali (SC)	27	Jwalapur (SC)	45	Gangolihat (SC)	63	Kashipur
10	Deoprayag	28	Bhagwanpur (SC)	46	Kapkote	64	Bajpur (SC)
11	Narendranagar	29	Jhabrera (SC)	47	Bageshwar (SC)	65	Gadarpur
12	Pratapnagar	30	Pirankaliyar	48	Dwarahat	66	Rudrapur
13	Tehri	31	Roorkee	49	Salt	67	Kichha
14	Dhanolti	32	Khanpur	50	Ranikhet	68	Sitarganj
15	Chakrata (ST)	33	Manglaur	51	Someshwar (SC)	69	Nanak Matta (ST)
16	Vikasnagar	34	Laksar	52	Almora	70	Khatima
17	Sahaspur	35	Hardwar Rural	53	Jageshwar		
18	Dharampur	36	Yamkeshwar	54	Lohaghat		

Map not to Scale

LEGEND

- International Boundary
- State Boundary
- District Boundary
- Assembly Boundary

Poll Event	2nd Phase (All 70 ACs)
Issue of Notification	21-01-2022 (Friday)
Date of Poll	14-02-2022 (Monday)
Counting of Votes	10-03-2022 (Thursday)
No. of Districts	13

SCHEDULE**A: Schedule for General Election to the Legislative Assembly of Uttar Pradesh:**

Poll Events	Phase-I (58 ACs)	Phase-II (55 ACs)	Phase-III (59 ACs)	Phase-IV (60 ACs)	Phase-V (60 ACs)	Phase-VI (57 ACs)	Phase-VII (54 ACs)
Date of Issue of Notification	14-01-2022 (Friday)	21-01-2022 (Friday)	25-01-2022 (Tuesday)	27-01-2022 (Thursday)	01-02-2022 (Tuesday)	04-02-2022 (Friday)	10-02-2022 (Thursday)
Last date of making nomination	21-01-2022 (Friday)	28-01-2022 (Friday)	01-02-2022 (Tuesday)	03-02-2022 (Thursday)	08-02-2022 (Tuesday)	11-02-2022 (Friday)	17-02-2022 (Thursday)
Date of Scrutiny	24-01-2022 (Monday)	29-01-2022 (Saturday)	02-02-2022 (Wednesday)	04-02-2022 (Friday)	09-02-2022 (Wednesday)	14-02-2022 (Monday)	18-02-2022 (Friday)
Last date of withdrawal	27-01-2022 (Thursday)	31-01-2022 (Monday)	04-02-2022 (Friday)	07-02-2022 (Monday)	11-02-2022 (Friday)	16-02-2022 (Wednesday)	21-02-2022 (Monday)
Date of Poll	10-02-2022 (Thursday)	14-02-2022 (Monday)	20-02-2022 (Sunday)	23-02-2022 (Tuesday)	27-02-2022 (Sunday)	03-03-2022 (Thursday)	07-03-2022 (Monday)
Date of Counting	10-03-2022 (Thursday)	10-03-2022 (Thursday)	10-03-2022 (Thursday)	10-03-2022 (Thursday)	10-03-2022 (Thursday)	10-03-2022 (Thursday)	10-03-2022 (Thursday)
Date of completion	12-03-2022 (Saturday)	12-03-2022 (Saturday)	12-03-2022 (Saturday)	12-03-2022 (Saturday)	12-03-2022 (Saturday)	12-03-2022 (Saturday)	12-03-2022 (Saturday)

***Details of ACs going to poll during the phases enclosed.**

**List of Four Hundred Three (403) Assmby Constituencies of Uttar Pradesh going to polls in
Phase-I as per Annexure-5**

Sl.No.	Assembly Constituency No. and Name	
1.	1	- Behat
2.	2	- Nakur
3.	3	- Saharanpur Nagar
4.	4	- Saharanpur
5.	5	- Deoband
6.	6	- Rampur Maniharan (SC)
7.	7	- Gangoh
8.	8	- Kairana
9.	9	- Thana Bhawan
10.	10	- Shamli
11.	11	- Budhana
12.	12	- Charthawal
13.	13	- Purqazi (SC)
14.	14	- Muzaffar Nagar
15.	15	- Khatauli
16.	16	- Meerapur
17.	17	- Najibabad
18.	18	- Nagina (SC)
19.	19	- Barhapur
20.	20	- Dhampur
21.	21	- Nehtaur (SC)
22.	22	- Bijnor
23.	23	- Chandpur
24.	24	- Noorpur
25.	25	- Kanth
26.	26	- Thakurdwara
27.	27	- Moradabad Rural
28.	28	- Moradabad Nagar
29.	29	- Kundarki
30.	30	- Bilari

31.	31	- Chandausi (SC)
32.	32	- Asmoli
33.	33	- Sambhal
34.	34	- Suar
35.	35	- Chamraua
36.	36	- Bilaspur
37.	37	- Rampur
38.	38	- Milak (SC)
39.	39	- Dhanaura (SC)
40.	40	- Naugawan Sadat
41.	41	- Amroha
42.	42	- Hasanpur
43.	43	- Siwalkhas
44.	44	- Sardhana
45.	45	- Hastinapur (SC)
46.	46	- Kithore
47.	47	- Meerut Cantt.
48.	48	- Meerut
49.	49	- Meerut South
50.	50	- Chhaprauli
51.	51	- Baraut
52.	52	- Baghpat
53.	53	- Loni
54.	54	- Muradnagar
55.	55	- Sahibabad
56.	56	- Ghaziabad
57.	57	- Modi Nagar
58.	58	- Dhaulana
59.	59	- Hapur (SC)
60.	60	- Garhmukteshwar
61.	61	- Noida
62.	62	- Dadri
63.	63	- Jewar
64.	64	- Sikandrabad
65.	65	- Bulandshahr

66.	66	- Syana
67.	67	- Anupshahr
68.	68	- Debai
69.	69	- Shikarpur
70.	70	- Khurja (SC)
71.	71	- Khair (SC)
72.	72	- Barauli
73.	73	- Atrauli
74.	74	- Chharra
75.	75	- Koil
76.	76	- Aligarh
77.	77	- Iglas (SC)
78.	78	- Hathras (SC)
79.	79	- Sadabad
80.	80	- Sikandra Rao
81.	81	- Chhata
82.	82	- Mant
83.	83	- Goverdhan
84.	84	- Mathura
85.	85	- Baldev (SC)
86.	86	- Etmadpur
87.	87	- Agra Cantt. (SC)
88.	88	- Agra South
89.	89	- Agra North
90.	90	- Agra Rural (SC)
91.	91	- Fatehpur Sikri
92.	92	- Kheragarh
93.	93	- Fatehabad
94.	94	- Bah
95.	95	- Tundla (SC)
96.	96	- Jasrana
97.	97	- Firozabad
98.	98	- Shikohabad
99.	99	- Sirsaganj
100.	100	- Kasganj

101.	101	- Amanpur
102.	102	- Patiyali
103.	103	- Aliganj
104.	104	- Etah
105.	105	- Marhara
106.	106	- Jalesar (SC)
107.	107	- Mainpuri
108.	108	- Bhongaon
109.	109	- Kishni (SC)
110.	110	- Karhal
111.	111	- Gunnaur
112.	112	- Bisauli (SC)
113.	113	- Sahaswan
114.	114	- Bilsa
115.	115	- Badaun
116.	116	- Shekhupur
117.	117	- Dataganj
118.	118	- Baheri
119.	119	- Meerganj
120.	120	- Bhojipura
121.	121	- Nawabganj
122.	122	- Faridpur (SC)
123.	123	- Bithari Chainpur
124.	124	- Bareilly
125.	125	- Bareilly Cantt.
126.	126	- Aonla
127.	127	- Pilibhit
128.	128	- Barkhera
129.	129	- Puranpur (SC)
130.	130	- Bisalpur
131.	131	- Katra
132.	132	- Jalalabad
133.	133	- Tilhar
134.	134	- Powayan (SC)
135.	135	- Shahjahanpur

136.	136	- Dadraul
137.	137	- Palia
138.	138	- Nighasan
139.	139	- Gola Gokrannath
140.	140	- Sri Nagar (SC)
141.	141	- Dhaurahra
142.	142	- Lakhimpur
143.	143	- Kasta (SC)
144.	144	- Mohammdi
145.	145	- Maholi
146.	146	- Sitapur
147.	147	- Hargaon (SC)
148.	148	- Laharpur
149.	149	- Biswan
150.	150	- Sevata
151.	151	- Mahmoodabad
152.	152	- Sidhauri (SC)
153.	153	- Misrikh (SC)
154.	154	- Sawayazpur
155.	155	- Shahabad
156.	156	- Hardoi
157.	157	- Gopamau (SC)
158.	158	- Sandi (SC)
159.	159	- Bilgram-Mallanwan
160.	160	- Balamau (SC)
161.	161	- Sandila
162.	162	- Bangermau
163.	163	- Safipur (SC)
164.	164	- Mohan (SC)
165.	165	- Unnao
166.	166	- Bhagwantnagar
167.	167	- Purwa
168.	168	- Malihabad (SC)
169.	169	- Bakshi Kaa Talab
170.	170	- Sarojini Nagar

171.	171	- Lucknow West
172.	172	- Lucknow North
173.	173	- Lucknow East
174.	174	- Lucknow Central
175.	175	- Lucknow Cantt.
176.	176	- Mohanlalganj (SC)
177.	177	- Bachhrawan (SC)
178.	178	- Tiloi
179.	179	- Harchandpur
180.	180	- Rae Bareli
181.	181	- Salon (SC)
182.	182	- Sareni
183.	183	- Unchahar
184.	184	- Jagdishpur (SC)
185.	185	- Gauriganj
186.	186	- Amethi
187.	187	- Isauli
188.	188	- Sultanpur
189.	189	- Sadar
190.	190	- Lambhua
191.	191	- Kadipur (SC)
192.	192	- Kaimganj (SC)
193.	193	- Amritpur
194.	194	- Farrukhabad
195.	195	- Bhojpur
196.	196	- Chhibramau
197.	197	- Tirwa
198.	198	- Kannauj (SC)
199.	199	- Jaswantnagar
200.	200	- Etawah
201.	201	- Bharthana (SC)
202.	202	- Bidhuna
203.	203	- Dibiyapur
204.	204	- Auraiya (SC)
205.	205	- Rasulabad (SC)

206.	206	- Akbarpur-Raniya
207.	207	- Sikandra
208.	208	- Bhognipur
209.	209	- Bilhaur (SC)
210.	210	- Bithoor
211.	211	- Kalyanpur
212.	212	- Govindnagar
213.	213	- Sishamau
214.	214	- Arya Nagar
215.	215	- Kidwai Nagar
216.	216	- Kanpur Cantt.
217.	217	- Maharajpur
218.	218	- Ghatampur (SC)
219.	219	- Madhaugarh
220.	220	- Kalpi
221.	221	- Orai (SC)
222.	222	- Babina
223.	223	- Jhansi Nagar
224.	224	- Mauranipur (SC)
225.	225	- Garautha
226.	226	- Lalitpur
227.	227	- Mehroni (SC)
228.	228	- Hamirpur
229.	229	- Rath (SC)
230.	230	- Mahoba
231.	231	- Charkhari
232.	232	- Tindwari
233.	233	- Baberu
234.	234	- Naraini (SC)
235.	235	- Banda
236.	236	- Chitrakoot
237.	237	- Manikpur
238.	238	- Jahanabad
239.	239	- Bindki
240.	240	- Fatehpur

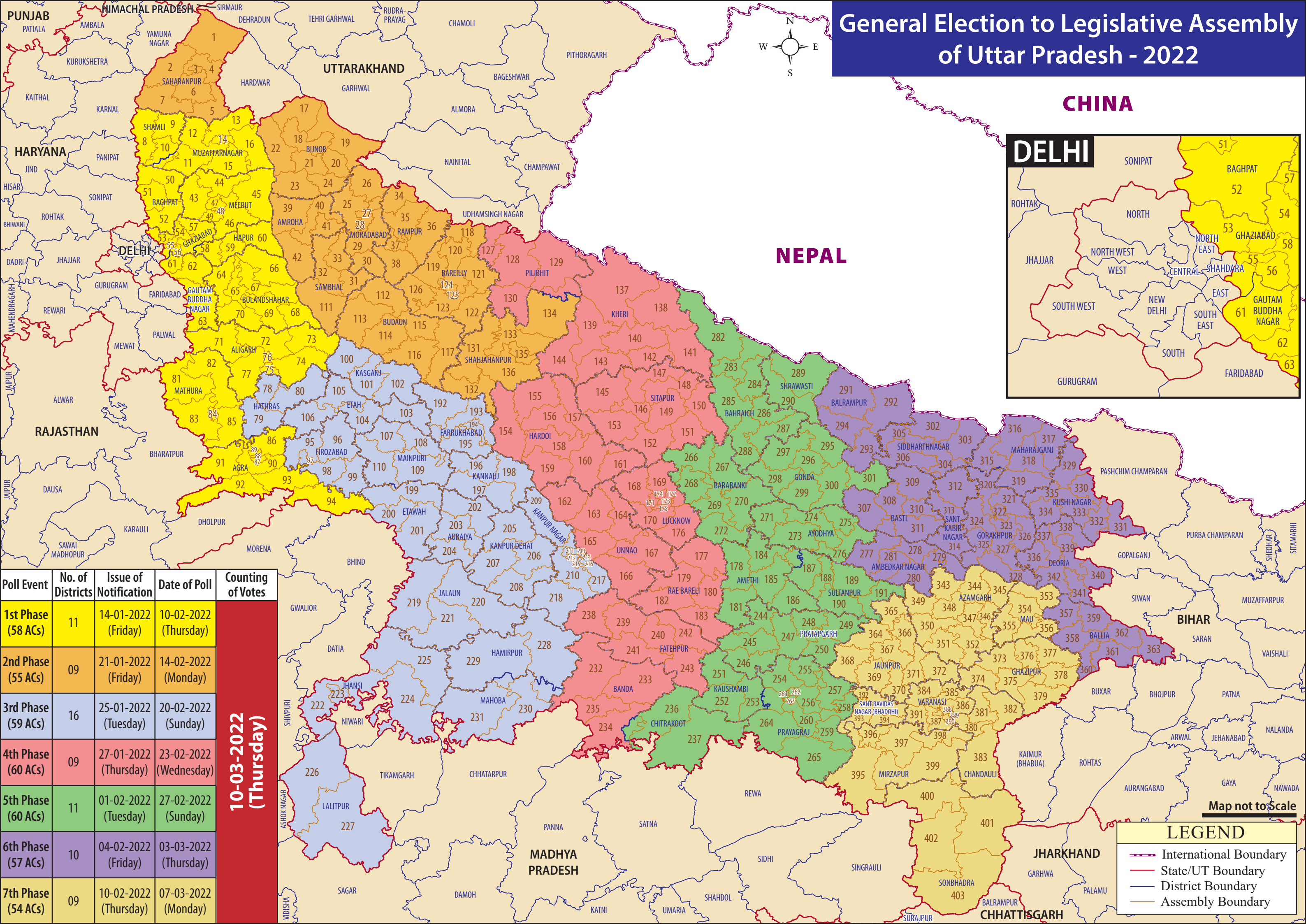
241.	241	-	Ayah Shah
242.	242	-	Husainganj
243.	243	-	Khaga (SC)
244.	244	-	Rampur Khas
245.	245	-	Babaganj (SC)
246.	246	-	Kunda
247.	247	-	Vishwanath Ganj
248.	248	-	Pratapgarh
249.	249	-	Patti
250.	250	-	Raniganj
251.	251	-	Sirathu
252.	252	-	Manjhanpur (SC)
253.	253	-	Chail
254.	254	-	Phaphamau
255.	255	-	Soraon (SC)
256.	256	-	Phulpur
257.	257	-	Pratappur
258.	258	-	Handia
259.	259	-	Meja
260.	260	-	Karachhana
261.	261	-	Allahabad West
262.	262	-	Allahabad North
263.	263	-	Allahabad South
264.	264	-	Bara (SC)
265.	265	-	Koraon (SC)
266.	266	-	Kursi
267.	267	-	Ram Nagar
268.	268	-	Barabanki
269.	269	-	Zaidpur (SC)
270.	270	-	Dariyabad
271.	271	-	Rudauli
272.	272	-	Haidergarh (SC)
273.	273	-	Milkipur (SC)
274.	274	-	Bikapur
275.	275	-	Ayodhya

276.	276	- Goshainganj
277.	277	- Katehari
278.	278	- Tanda
279.	279	- Alapur (SC)
280.	280	- Jalalpur
281.	281	- Akbarpur
282.	282	- Balha (SC)
283.	283	- Nanpara
284.	284	- Matera
285.	285	- Mahasi
286.	286	- Bahraich
287.	287	- Payagpur
288.	288	- Kaiserganj
289.	289	- Bhinga
290.	290	- Shrawasti
291.	291	- Tulsipur
292.	292	- Gainsari
293.	293	- Utraula
294.	294	- Balrampur (SC)
295.	295	- Mehnaun
296.	296	- Gonda
297.	297	- Katra Bazar
298.	298	- Colonelganj
299.	299	- Tarabganj
300.	300	- Mankapur (SC)
301.	301	- Gaura
302.	302	- Shohratgarh
303.	303	- Kapilvastu (SC)
304.	304	- Bansi
305.	305	- Itwa
306.	306	- Domariyaganj
307.	307	- Harraiya
308.	308	- Kaptanganj
309.	309	- Rudhauli
310.	310	- Basti Sadar

311.	311	- Mahadewa (SC)
312.	312	- Menhdawal
313.	313	- Khalilabad
314.	314	- Dhanghata (SC)
315.	315	- Pharenda
316.	316	- Nautanwa
317.	317	- Siswa
318.	318	- Maharajganj (SC)
319.	319	- Paniyra
320.	320	- Caimpiyarganj
321.	321	- Pipraich
322.	322	- Gorakhpur Urban
323.	323	- Gorakhpur Rural
324.	324	- Sahajanwa
325.	325	- Khajani (SC)
326.	326	- Chauri-Chaura
327.	327	- Bansgaon (SC)
328.	328	- Chillupar
329.	329	- Khadda
330.	330	- Padrauna
331.	331	- Tamkuhi Raj
332.	332	- Fazilnagar
333.	333	- Kushinagar
334.	334	- Hata
335.	335	- Ramkola (SC)
336.	336	- Rudrapur
337.	337	- Deoria
338.	338	- Pathardeva
339.	339	- Rampur Karkhana
340.	340	- Bhatpar Rani
341.	341	- Salempur (SC)
342.	342	- Barhaj
343.	343	- Atrauliya
344.	344	- Gopalpur
345.	345	- Sagri

346.	346	- Mubarakpur
347.	347	- Azamgarh
348.	348	- Nizamabad
349.	349	- Phoolpur-Pawai
350.	350	- Didarganj
351.	351	- Lalganj (SC)
352.	352	- Mehnagar (SC)
353.	353	- Madhuban
354.	354	- Ghosi
355.	355	- Muhammadabad-Gohna (SC)
356.	356	- Mau
357.	357	- Belthara Road (SC)
358.	358	- Rasara
359.	359	- Sikanderpur
360.	360	- Phephana
361.	361	- Ballia Nagar
362.	362	- Bansdih
363.	363	- Bairia
364.	364	- Badlapur
365.	365	- Shahganj
366.	366	- Jaunpur
367.	367	- Malhani
368.	368	- Mungra Badshahpur
369.	369	- Machhlishahr (SC)
370.	370	- Mariyahu
371.	371	- Zafrabad
372.	372	- Kerakat (SC)
373.	373	- Jakhanian (SC)
374.	374	- Saidpur (SC)
375.	375	- Ghazipur
376.	376	- Jangipur
377.	377	- Zahoorabad
378.	378	- Mohammadabad
379.	379	- Zamania
380.	380	- Mughalsarai

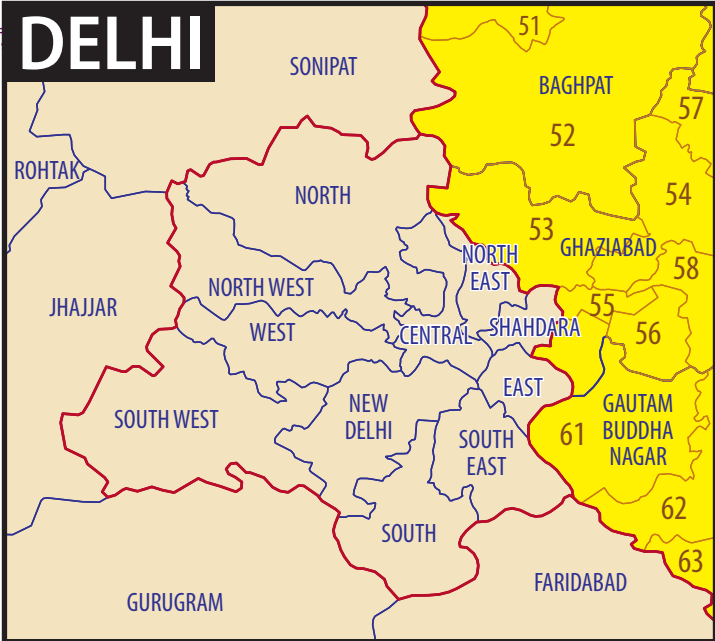
381.	381	- Sakaldiha
382.	382	- Saiyadraja
383.	383	- Chakia (SC)
384.	384	- Pindra
385.	385	- Ajagara (SC)
386.	386	- Shivpur
387.	387	- Rohaniya
388.	388	- Varanasi North
389.	389	- Varanasi South
390.	390	- Varanasi Cantt.
391.	391	- Sevapuri
392.	392	- Bhadohi
393.	393	- Gyanpur
394.	394	- Aurai (SC)
395.	395	- Chhanbey (SC)
396.	396	- Mirzapur
397.	397	- Majhawan
398.	398	- Chunar
399.	399	- Marihan
400.	400	- Ghorawal
401.	401	- Robertsganj
402.	402	- Obra (ST)
403.	403	- Duddhi (ST)



General Election to Legislative Assembly of Uttar Pradesh - 2022

CHINA

NEPAL



Poll Event	No. of Districts	Issue of Notification	Date of Poll	Counting of Votes
1st Phase (58 ACs)	11	14-01-2022 (Friday)	10-02-2022 (Thursday)	10-03-2022 (Thursday)
2nd Phase (55 ACs)	09	21-01-2022 (Friday)	14-02-2022 (Monday)	
3rd Phase (59 ACs)	16	25-01-2022 (Tuesday)	20-02-2022 (Sunday)	
4th Phase (60 ACs)	09	27-01-2022 (Thursday)	23-02-2022 (Wednesday)	
5th Phase (60 ACs)	11	01-02-2022 (Tuesday)	27-02-2022 (Sunday)	
6th Phase (57 ACs)	10	04-02-2022 (Friday)	03-03-2022 (Thursday)	
7th Phase (54 ACs)	09	10-02-2022 (Thursday)	07-03-2022 (Monday)	

Map not to Scale

LEGEND

International Boundary

State/UT Boundary

District Boundary

Assembly Boundary

UTTAR PRADESH ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY

PHASE - 1	PHASE - 2	PHASE - 3	PHASE - 4	PHASE - 5	PHASE - 6	PHASE - 7
8 - Kairana	1 - Behat	78 - Hathras (SC)	127 - Pilibhit	178 - Tiloi	277 - Katehari	343 - Atrauliya
9 - Thana Bhawan	2 - Nakur	79 - Sadabad	128 - Barkhera	181 - Salon (SC)	278 - Tanda	344 - Gopalpur
10 - Shamli	3 - Saharanpur Nagar	80 - Sikandra Rao	129 - Puranpur (SC)	184 - Jagdishpur (SC)	279 - Alapur (SC)	345 - Sagri
11 - Budhana	4 - Saharanpur	95 - Tundla (SC)	130 - Bisalpur	185 - Gauriganj	280 - Jalalpur	346 - Mubarakpur
12 - Charthawal	5 - Deoband	96 - Jasrana	137 - Palia	186 - Amethi	281 - Akbarpur	347 - Azamgarh
13 - Purqazi (SC)	6 - Rampur	97 - Firozabad	138 - Nighasan	187 - Isauli	291 - Tulsipur	348 - Nizamabad
14 - Muzaffar Nagar	Maniharan (SC)	98 - Shikohabad	139 - Gola Gokrannath	188 - Sultanpur	292 - Gainsari	349 - Phoolpur-Pawai
15 - Khatauli	7 - Gangoh	99 - Sirsaganj	140 - Sri Nagar (SC)	189 - Sadar	293 - Utraula	350 - Didarganj
16 - Meerapur	17 - Najibabad	100 - Kasganj	141 - Dhaurahra	190 - Lambhua	294 - Balrampur (SC)	351 - Lalganj (SC)
43 - Siwalkhas	18 - Nagina (SC)	101 - Amanpur	142 - Lakhimpur	191 - Kadipur (SC)	302 - Shohratgarh	352 - Mehnagar (SC)
44 - Sardhana	19 - Barhapur	102 - Patiyali	143 - Kasta (SC)	236 - Chitrakoot	303 - Kapilvastu (SC)	353 - Madhuban
45 - Hastinapur (SC)	20 - Dhampur	103 - Aliganj	144 - Mohammdi	237 - Manikpur	304 - Bansi	354 - Ghosi
46 - Kithore	21 - Nehtaur (SC)	104 - Etah	145 - Maholi	244 - Rampur Khas	305 - Itwa	355 - Muhammadabad-Gohna (SC)
47 - Meerut Cantt.	22 - Bijnor	105 - Marhara	146 - Sitapur	245 - Babaganj (SC)	306 - Domariyaganj	356 - Mau
48 - Meerut	23 - Chandpur	106 - Jalesar (SC)	147 - Hargaon (SC)	246 - Kunda	307 - Harraiya	364 - Badlapur
49 - Meerut South	24 - Noorpur	107 - Mainpuri	148 - Laharpur	247 - Vishwanath Ganj	308 - Kaptanganj	365 - Shahganj
50 - Chhaprauli	25 - Kanth	108 - Bhongaon	149 - Biswan	248 - Pratapgarh	309 - Rudhauri	366 - Jaunpur
51 - Baraut	26 - Thakurdwara	109 - Kishni (SC)	150 - Sevata	249 - Patti	310 - Basti Sadar	367 - Malhani
52 - Baghpat	27 - Moradabad Rural	110 - Karhal	151 - Mahmoodabad	250 - Raniganj	311 - Mahadewa (SC)	368 - Mungra Badshahpur
53 - Loni	28 - Moradabad Nagar	192 - Kaimganj (SC)	152 - Sidhauri (SC)	251 - Sirathu	312 - Menhdawal	369 - Machhlishahr (SC)
54 - Muradnagar	29 - Kundarki	193 - Amritpur	153 - Misrikh (SC)	252 - Manjhanpur (SC)	313 - Khalilabad	370 - Mariyahu
55 - Sahibabad	30 - Bilari	194 - Farrukhabad	154 - Sawayazpur	253 - Chail	314 - Dhanghata (SC)	371 - Zafrabad
56 - Ghaziabad	31 - Chandausi (SC)	195 - Bhojpur	155 - Shahabad	254 - Phaphamau	315 - Pharenda	372 - Kerakat (SC)
57 - Modi Nagar	32 - Asmoli	196 - Chhibramau	156 - Hardoi	255 - Soraon (SC)	316 - Nautanwa	373 - Jakhnian (SC)
58 - Dhaulana	33 - Sambhal	197 - Tirwa	157 - Gopamau (SC)	256 - Phulpur	317 - Siswa	374 - Saidpur (SC)
59 - Hapur (SC)	34 - Suar	198 - Kannauj (SC)	158 - Sandi (SC)	257 - Pratappur	318 - Maharajganj (SC)	375 - Ghazipur
60 - Garhmukteshwar	35 - Chamraua	199 - Jaswantnagar	159 - Bilgram-Mallanwan	258 - Handia	319 - Pamiya	376 - Jangipur
61 - Noida	36 - Bilaspur	200 - Etawah	160 - Balamau (SC)	259 - Meja	320 - Caimpiyarganj	377 - Zahoorabad
62 - Dadri	37 - Rampur	201 - Bharthana (SC)	161 - Sandila	260 - Karachhana	321 - Pipraich	378 - Mohammadabad
63 - Jewar	38 - Milak (SC)	202 - Bidhuna	162 - Bangermu	261 - Allahabad West	322 - Gorakhpur Urban	379 - Zamania
64 - Sikandrabad	39 - Dhanaura (SC)	203 - Dibiyapur	163 - Safipur (SC)	262 - Allahabad North	323 - Gorakhpur Rural	380 - Mughalsarai
65 - Bulandshahr	40 - Naugawan Sadat	204 - Auraiya (SC)	164 - Mohan (SC)	263 - Allahabad South	324 - Sahajanwa	381 - Sakaldiha
66 - Syana	41 - Amroha	205 - Rasulabad (SC)	165 - Unnao	264 - Bara (SC)	325 - Khajani (SC)	382 - Saiyadraja
67 - Anupshahr	42 - Hasanpur	206 - Akbarpur-Raniya	166 - Bhagwantnagar	265 - Koraon (SC)	326 - Chauri-Chaura	383 - Chakia (SC)
68 - Debai	111 - Gunnaur	207 - Sikandra	167 - Purwa	266 - Kursi	327 - Bangsaon (SC)	384 - Pindra
69 - Shikarpur	112 - Bisauli (SC)	208 - Bhognipur	168 - Malihabad (SC)	267 - Ram Nagar	328 - Chillupar	385 - Ajagara (SC)
70 - Khurja (SC)	113 - Sahaswan	209 - Bilhaur (SC)	169 - Bakshi Kaa Talab	268 - Barabanki	329 - Khadda	386 - Shivpur
71 - Khair (SC)	114 - Bilsa	210 - Bithoor	170 - Sarojini Nagar	269 - Zaidpur (SC)	330 - Padrauna	387 - Rohaniya
72 - Barauli	115 - Badaun	211 - Kalyanpur	171 - Lucknow West	270 - Dariyabad	331 - Tamkuhi Raj	388 - Varanasi North
73 - Atrauli	116 - Shekhupur	212 - Govindnagar	172 - Lucknow North	271 - Rudauli	332 - Fazilnagar	389 - Varanasi South
74 - Chharra	117 - Dataganj	213 - Sishamau	173 - Lucknow East	272 - Haidergarh (SC)	333 - Kushinagar	390 - Varanasi Cantt.
75 - Koil	118 - Baheri	214 - Arya Nagar	174 - Lucknow Central	273 - Milkipur (SC)	334 - Hata	391 - Sevapuri
76 - Aligarh	119 - Meerganj	215 - Kidwai Nagar	175 - Lucknow Cantt.	274 - Bikapur	335 - Ramkola (SC)	392 - Bhadohi
77 - Iglas (SC)	120 - Bhojipura	216 - Kanpur Cantt.	176 - Mohanlalganj (SC)	275 - Ayodhya	336 - Rudrapur	393 - Gyanpur
81 - Chhata	121 - Nawabganj	217 - Maharajpur	177 - Bachhrawan (SC)	276 - Goshainganj	337 - Deoria	394 - Aurai (SC)
82 - Mant	122 - Faridpur (SC)	218 - Ghatampur (SC)	179 - Harchandpur	282 - Balha (SC)	338 - Pathardeva	395 - Chhanbey (SC)
83 - Goverdhan	123 - Bithari Chainpur	219 - Madhaugarh	180 - Rae Bareli	283 - Nanpara	339 - Rampur Karkhana	396 - Mirzapur
84 - Mathura	124 - Bareilly	220 - Kalpi	182 - Sareni	284 - Matera	340 - Bhatpar Rani	397 - Majhawan
85 - Baldev (SC)	125 - Bareilly Cantt.	221 - Orai (SC)	183 - Unchahar	285 - Mahasi	341 - Salempur (SC)	398 - Chunar
86 - Etmadpur	126 - Aonla	222 - Babina	232 - Tindwari	286 - Bahraich	342 - Barhaj	399 - Marihan
87 - Agra Cantt. (SC)	131 - Katra	223 - Jhansi Nagar	233 - Baberu	287 - Payagpur	357 - Belthara Road (SC)	400 - Ghorawal
88 - Agra South	132 - Jalalabad	224 - Mauranipur (SC)	234 - Naraini (SC)	288 - Kaiserganj	358 - Rasara	401 - Robertsganj
89 - Agra North	133 - Tilhar	225 - Garautha	235 - Banda	289 - Bhinga	359 - Sikanderpur	402 - Obra (ST)
90 - Agra Rural (SC)	134 - Powayan (SC)	226 - Lalitpur	238 - Jahanabad	290 - Shrawasti	360 - Phephana	403 - Duddhi (ST)
91 - Fatehpur Sikri	135 - Shahjahanpur	227 - Mehroni (SC)	239 - Bindki	295 - Mehnaun	361 - Ballia Nagar	
92 - Kheragarh	136 - Dadraul	228 - Hamirpur	240 - Fatehpur	296 - Gonda	362 - Bansdih	
93 - Fatehabad		229 - Rath (SC)	241 - Ayah Shah	297 - Katra Bazar	363 - Bairia	
94 - Bah		230 - Mahoba	242 - Husainganj	298 - Colonelganj		
		231 - Charkhari	243 - Khaga (SC)	299 - Tarabganj		
				300 - Mankapur (SC)		
				301 - Gaura		



“NO VOTER TO BE LEFT BEHIND”



भारत निर्वाचन आयोग Election Commission of India

Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi -110001

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**Conduct of General
Elections/Bye-elections
during
COVID
Revised Broad Guidelines
2022**



ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

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Conduct of General Elections/Bye-elections during COVID

Revised Broad Guidelines

2022

Election Commission of India

Conduct of General Elections/Bye-elections during COVID

Revised Broad Guidelines, 2022

Election Commission of India, on 21st August 2020, had issued "Broad guidelines for conduct of General Elections/Bye-elections during COVID-19". The General Elections to legislative assemblies of Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Assam, West Bengal and Puducherry were conducted accordingly. The Commission had also issued further instructions, from time to time, in view of the emerging COVID circumstances and advisories issued by Ministry of Home Affairs and MoHFW.

2. **Article 172(1) of the Constitution of India** states that the term of the legislative assembly shall be five years from the date of its first meeting. The term of state assemblies of Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Goa and Manipur is due to expire starting from 15.3.2022. The relevant provisions of The Representation of Peoples Act, 1950, and The Representation of Peoples Act, 1951 govern the electoral process.
3. **Commission held consultations with all National and State Political parties** in all the poll going states who suggested that elections should be held in time while enforcing the covid appropriate behavior.
4. **Commission also held consultations with Union Home Secretary, Union Health Secretary and Medical experts, Chief Secretaries and Health Secretaries of all poll going states regarding prevailing covid situation and measures being taken/ planned by them.**
5. **The safety of vote and voters**, both are equally and critically important in the democracy. Therefore, it is duty of the Commission to fulfil its constitutional mandate and those of Authorities/ Committee(s) under the Disaster Management Act, 2005 (DM Act) to extend support as per legal and institutional framework to steer elections even during unprecedented pandemic for putting elected government in place within due time.
6. **The Disaster Management Act, 2005 (DM Act)** provides for the effective management of disaster(s) and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. A comprehensive institutional regime has been set up under the DM Act with National Disaster Management Authority(**NDMA**) at the Apex level u/s 3(1), National Executive Committee (**NEC**) u/s 8(1), State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA) u/s 14(1), State Executive Committee (**SEC**) headed by the Chief Secretary of the State u/s 20(1) and the District Disaster Management Authority headed by District Magistrate u/s 25(2a). The DM Act mandates and makes such designated Authorities/Committee(s) responsible to prepare plan; prescribe regulatory/ mitigation regime and enforcement thereof; seek community/ inter agency coordination and to monitor implementation of the prescribed directions to contain, mitigate, control damage and providing assistance to the effected persons. The DM Act also empowers the designated authorities/ Committee(s) to take appropriate legal/ punitive action against violators of its directions u/s 51-60 of the Act.
7. Commission, after briefing by the Chairperson of the NEC and the Chairpersons of the SECs of the five poll going states, took note of the action being taken from time to time by such designated authorities / Committee(s) under the legal / institutional mechanism created by the DM Act, 2005. With respect to the

pandemic caused by Covid 19 and subsequent variants of the same, implementation of the Covid appropriate behavior as per the regime prescribed by such designated Authorities / Committee(s) assumes criticality during the electoral process. In view of Variant of Concern (VOC) named as Omicron notified by MoHFW and the prevailing situation, the Commission has examined its existing guidelines and hereby, in supersession of all its earlier guidelines on the subject, further revises/ modifies its broad guidelines comprehensively **to complement and not repeat not to substitute** the mandate/ responsibility of the Authorities/ Committee(s) under the Disaster Management Act, 2005 (DM Act).

8. The Commission directs that during electoral process Chief Secretary at State level and District Magistrate at District level, shall be primarily responsible for monitoring, supervision and strict enforcement of these COVID guidelines and the guidelines issued by NDMA and respective SDMA/DDMA, whichever is more stringent.

Details of the broad guidelines are as follows:

I. Campaign by the political parties/contesting candidates/Others

1. It is expected that all stakeholders namely political parties, candidates, campaigners, voters and authorities engaged in the election process shall always be conscious of their prime duty towards public health / safety and therefore shall abide by these general instructions and other norms of Covid appropriate behavior as mandated by the respective authorities prescribed under the law.
2. **No road show, Pad-yatra, cycle/bike/vehicle rally and procession** shall be allowed till 15 January, 2022. Commission shall subsequently review the situation and issue further instructions accordingly.
3. **No physical rally** of Political parties or probable candidates or any other group related to election shall be allowed till 15 January, 2022. Commission shall subsequently review the situation and issue further instructions accordingly.
4. **However, physical rallies during the campaign period, as and when permitted after the decision of the Commission** shall be conducted subject to adherence to extant COVID-19 guidelines. **The maximum limit of persons allowed for Indoor and outdoor** rally/meeting shall be as per existing direction of respective SDMA. For these meetings political parties shall distribute masks and sanitizers to persons attending and maintain COVID protocol at entry and exit point.
5. District Election Officer should take following steps for this purpose:
 - I. District Election Officer should, in advance, identify dedicated grounds for public gathering with clearly marked Entry/Exit points.
 - II. In all such identified grounds, the District Election Officer should ensure that markers for social distancing norms are put in place in advance by organisers of the meeting/rally.
 - III. District Election Officer and District Superintendent of Police should ensure that the number of attendees do not exceed the limit prescribed by State Disaster Management Authority for public gatherings. DEO should depute Nodal Health officers to oversee that

COVID-19 instructions/guidelines are followed during these meetings.

- IV. The political parties and candidates concerned shall ensure that all COVID-19 related requirement like face masks, sanitizers, thermal scanning etc. are fulfilled during each of election related activities.
6. Further, rallies and meeting shall be allowed **only in earmarked places** and with prior permissions of district administration.
7. **Each political party/candidate shall furnish an undertaking** in the application form (under Suvidha) that it shall abide by all the extant instructions/guidelines in this regard.
8. Allocation of public spaces must be done using Suvidha app in the manner already prescribed by Commission.
9. **Between 8 pm and 8 am no rallies and public meetings (akin to campaign curfew)** shall be allowed on any campaign day.
10. **Nukkad Sabhas (meeting) will not be allowed** on public roads, roundabouts or public streets or corners.
11. Further, 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.
12. **Door to Door Campaign-** A maximum of 5 (five) persons including candidate, excluding security personnel, if any, shall be allowed to do door to door campaigning.
13. **The convoy of vehicles shall be broken after every 5** (five) vehicles and interval between two sets of convoys of vehicles should be half an hour instead of gap of 100 meters. (In supersession of Para 5.8.1 of Returning Officer's Handbook 2019). During the permitted campaign period, convoy of vehicles will be allowed only for movement of vehicle from one point to another point for campaigning.
14. **The maximum number of star campaigners** for recognized National/State political parties has been fixed 30 in place of 40, for unrecognized political parties 15 in place of 20. Request for permission for campaign by star campaigners may be given at least 48 hours before the start of campaign to make all necessary safety arrangements.
15. **No victory procession** after the counting shall be allowed and not more than two persons shall be allowed to accompany the winning candidate or his/her authorized representative to receive the certificate of election from Returning Officer.
16. **If a candidate or political party violates any of the above guidelines**, no further permission shall be given to the concerned candidate/party for rallies, meetings etc.
17. The Commission on 29th December, 2021 has directed Secretary, MoHFW to issue direction to treat all eligible govt. officials, deployed/engaged for elections, at par with Front Line Workers (FLWs) in the poll going states and to give them additional precaution dose of COVID-19.

II. **General Guidelines to be followed during entire election processes for all persons**

18. All person involved with the electoral process shall **wear face mask** during the concerned election related activities.
19. **Social distancing norms** shall be strictly abided by all persons connected with election related activities as per the extant COVID guidelines of the State Govt. and Ministry of Home Affairs.
20. All Polling Personnel/Security Personnel/Counting Staff shall be doubly vaccinated before deploying/engaging in election related activities.
21. No Polling Agent/ Counting Agent etc. allowed to enter Counting hall/polling station without doubly vaccination.
22. No person shall be allowed to enter Counting hall without double vaccination and if they are not vaccinated/single vaccinated, RT-PCR/RAT from authorized lab will be required within 48 hours from start of polling/counting.
23. At the **entry of hall/ room/ premises** used for election purposes:
 - **Thermal Scanning** of all persons shall be carried out;
 - **Sanitizer** shall be made available on all entry points.
24. As far as practicable, large halls should be identified and utilized to ensure social distancing norms.
25. Adequate number of vehicles shall be mobilized for movement of polling personnel, security personnel to ensure compliance of COVID-19 guidelines.
26. Create awareness among the public for COVID appropriate behavior including self-monitoring.
27. **Nodal Health Officer:** Nodal Health Officer shall be designated for the State Level, the District Level and the Assembly Constituency Level to oversee COVID related arrangements and, preventive measures during entire electoral process.
28. **EVMs/VVPATs**
 - i. First & Second randomization and preparation of EVMs/VVPATs shall be done in large halls.
 - ii. Sanitizers shall be provided in sufficient quantity for use during the process.
 - iii. Gloves shall be made available to each official handling EVM/VVPAT.
29. **Election Material:** Election Material Kit will be prepared in a spacious and sufficiently large hall following all safety, sanitation and social distancing measures.
30. **Distribution and Collection of Election Material**
 - i. Large halls/spaces should be identified for distribution/collection of election material.
 - ii. As far as practicable, it should be organized in decentralized manner.
 - iii. Prior time should be allocated to the polling teams for distribution/collection of election material.

31 Timing of 3rd randomization of Polling Staff:

Timing for 3rd randomization of polling staff be increased **from 24 hrs to 72 hrs.** in order to avoid large gathering of polling staff at dispatch centres.

(This is in supersession of **ECI No. 464/Inst/2008/EPS dated 19th September, 2008**)

32. Kit for Polling Officer

The following items shall be provided to every polling official and security personnel (Other than those where PPEs are needed) in addition to other prescribed items:

- i. Mask
- ii. Sanitizer
- iii. Face-Shield
- iv. Gloves

33. Training and capacity Building

- i. As far as practicable, training of election officials will be organized in decentralized manner at large halls.
- ii. Training for election officials may be organized through online mode.
- iii. All PPTs, training materials, relevant documents, topic wise video clips, question papers for self-assessment may be uploaded in app/ portal so that any election official can access it as per requirement.
- iv. Sufficient number of Polling/Counting/Poll related staffs shall also be kept in reserve by DEO/RO, to replace in case any polling personnel displays COVID-19 symptoms.

34. Nomination Process Following additional options to facilitate online mode are hereby provided:

- i. Nomination form will also be available online on the website of CEO/DEO. An intending candidate may fill in it online and its print may be taken for submitting before the Returning Officer as specified in Form-1 (Rule-3 of Conduct of Election Rules 1961).
- ii. Affidavit may also be filled in online on the website of CEO/DEO and its print can be taken and after notarization it may be submitted along with the nomination form before the Returning Officer.
- ii. Candidate may deposit security money through **online mode** at the designated platform. However, a candidate will continue to have the option of deposit in cash in the treasury.
- iv. Candidate may have the option to seek his/her elector certification for the purpose of nomination online.
- v. Number of persons to accompany candidate for submission of Nomination is restricted to two (2). (This is in supersession of 5 (five))

as per the existing **Para 5.8.1of Returning Officer's Handbook 2019**).

- i. Maximum number of vehicles for the purposes of nomination is restricted to two (2) (This is in supersession of the existing **Para 5.8.1of Returning Officer's Handbook 2019**)
- ii. Returning Officer's chamber should have sufficient space to perform the functions of nomination, scrutiny and symbol allocation following social distancing norms.
- ii. Returning Officer should allot staggered time in advance to prospective candidates.
- x. Large space for waiting for candidate(s) should be arranged.
- x. All steps required to be taken for the submission of nomination form and affidavit shall continue to operate as per the provisions contained in the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

35. **No. of electors in Polling Station**

There shall be maximum 1250 electors instead of 1500 electors in a polling station.

36. **Polling Station Arrangements**

Commission has issued detailed instructions for assured minimum facilities at each polling station. Now, in view of COVID situation, following additional facilities/steps should be taken:

- i. Mandatory sanitization of Polling Station, preferably, a day before the poll.
- ii. Thermal Scanner at the entry point of every polling station location.
- iii. Thermal Checking of voters at entry point of polling station location/Polling station, either by polling staff or Para Medical staff or Asha worker.
- iv. **If temperature is above the set norms of MoH&FW at first reading, then it will be checked twice and if it remains, then the elector shall be provided with token/certificate and will be asked to come for voting at the last hour of poll. At the last hour of poll, such electors shall be facilitated voting, strictly following COVID-19 related preventive measures.**
- v. Help Desk for distribution of token to the voters of first come first basis so that they do not wait in the queue.
- vi. Marker to demonstrate social distancing for queue.
- vii. Earmarking circle for 15-20 persons of 2 yards (6 feet) distance for voters standing in the queue depending on the availability of space. There shall be three queues each, for male, female, and PwD/ Senior citizen voters.
- viii. The services of BLOs, volunteers etc may be engaged to monitor and regulate social distancing norms strictly.
- ix. One shaded waiting areas with chairs, dari etc. will be provided, for male and female separately, within the polling station premises so that voters can participate in voting without safety concerns.

- x. Wherever possible, Booth App shall be used at the polling station.
- xi. **Sanitizer** should be provided at the entry/exit point of every polling station.
- xii. **Face Masks** in reserves for those electors who are not carrying the mask will be kept.
- xiii. Awareness posters on COVID should be displayed at visible locations.
- xiv. Sitting arrangement in polling station for the polling personnel and polling agents shall be made as per the norms of social distancing.
- xv. If polling agent or counting agent is having temperature above the prescribed limit, then their reliever shall be allowed by Presiding Officer, who will keep a record accordingly.
- xvi. During the process of identification of voter, the voters will require to lower the facemask for identification, when required.
- xvii. At any given time, only 1(one) voter shall be allowed to stand in front of each polling official maintaining social distance.
- xviii. Hand gloves shall be provided to the voter, for signing on the voter register and pressing button of EVM for voting.
- xix. Sanitizers shall be kept inside the booth at appropriate locations with clear direction for the use by voters.
- xx. COVID patients and all other who may be under quarantine will be allowed to cast their vote **at the last hour of the poll day** at their respective Polling Stations, under the supervision of health authorities, strictly following COVID-19 related preventive measures. Sector Magistrates shall coordinate this activity in their allocated polling stations.

37. **Postal Ballot**

Option of Postal Ballot facility has been extended to the electors of following categories:

- i. Electors who are flagged as Persons with Disabilities (PwD) and who are having benchmark disabilities.
- ii. Electors above the age of 80 years
- iii. Electors employed in notified essential services
- iv. Electors who are COVID positive/suspect and in quarantine (home/institutional)

38. **Strong-room Arrangement**

- I. Strong Room should be sanitized before the storage of polled EVMs.
- II. Social Distancing and other safety norms shall be followed for each activity.

39. **Counting of votes**

- At entry of Counting Hall there must be facility of Thermal Scanning and Sanitizer.
 - Counting Centers shall be disinfected before and after the counting.
 - Counting Hall be sufficiently big to maintain social distancing, proper ventilation, windows, exhaust fan etc.
 - Anyone, even after double vaccinated, having any symptom of COVID like fever, Cold etc. will not be allowed in Counting hall.
 - Every Counting Official and Security personnel be provided with Mask, Sanitizer, Face-Shield and Hand Gloves.
- I. Not more than 7 counting tables should be allowed in a counting hall. Hence, counting of votes of a constituency may be considered at 3-4 halls by appointing additional Assistant Returning Officers. (In supersession of instructions dated 30th April, 2014)
- II. The counting centers shall be disinfected before, during and after the counting.
- III. For counting of Postal Ballots, additional number of AROs may be required. If required, Postal Ballots may also be counted in a separate hall under the supervision of the Returning Officer/Assistant Returning officer.
- i. DEO shall appoint a Nodal Officer at each Counting Centre to ensure compliance of COVID guidelines with assistance of Nodal Health Officer and Compliance Certificate in r/o Counting Centre arrangement as per COVID guidelines from Health Authorities be taken.
 - ii. List of counting agents be made available by candidates to RO by 1700 hours on day three days prior to counting.
 - iii. No public gathering outside the counting venue during process of counting.
 - iv. Candidate may appoint/replace counting agents in case report is positive.

Needless to add that *anybody violating instructions* on COVID-19 measures will be liable to be proceeded against as per the provisions of Section 51 to 60 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005, besides legal action under Section 188 of the IPC, and other legal provisions as applicable, as specified in Order No. 40-3/2020-DM-I(A) dated 29th July, 2020 of Ministry of Home Affairs. District Election Officer should bring this to the notice of all concerned.

Further , the Chief Secretary cum Ex officio chairperson of the State Executive Committee under section 20 of the DM Act, 2005 shall , as and when required and as per the evolving/ contextual needs of the State, at

once bring to the notice of the Commission any new trend, development / situation that is not covered by these **broad guidelines for General Elections** and warrants Commission's intervention during the electoral process in the state so as to enable Commission to issue further appropriate instructions with respect to electoral process and thereby complementing the mandate/ efforts of the State Executive Committee in containing/ managing the spread of pandemic.

We are ...



ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

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