



**REPORT ON**  
**SHIMLA MUNICIPAL**  
**CORPORATION ELECTIONS**  
**AND**  
**BYE-ELECTIONS TO**  
**PANCHAYATI RAJ**  
**INSTITUTIONS**  
**AND**  
**URBAN LOCAL BODIES**

**May 2023**



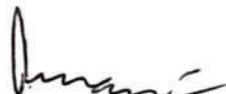
State Election Commission,  
Himachal Pradesh



## FOREWORD

The State Election Commission Himachal Pradesh has so far conducted six general elections to Panchayati Raj Institutions and Urban Local Bodies in the State. While general elections to all local bodies in the State have been conducted in 2021, Shimla Municipal Corporation elections were due in June 2022. However due to various issues documented in these reports, the elections could not be held in time and were finally conducted in May 2023. At the same time, since the system of local self government is dynamic and the status of representatives keeps on changing, thus it is imperative that the vacancies arising due to a variety of reasons in various Urban and Rural Local bodies of the State be filled in time so that the people may not be deprived of their right of representation. Also, in absence of adequate representation at local level, various government schemes cannot be implemented and development work is hampered. Thus elections to Shimla Municipal Corporation and bye-elections to casual vacancies throughout the State were conducted in the month of May, 2023 so that the vacancies are filled up swiftly.

The two reports (**Part-A** pertaining to General Election to Municipal Corporation Shimla and **Part-B** pertaining to bye-elections to Panchayati Raj Institutions) aim to gather and document information on these elections in a consistent manner. The reports have been made keeping in mind the recurrent need of using election data by various stakeholders and I hope that these reports will be helpful in achieving its desired outcome. I wish to take this opportunity to place on record the sincerity displayed by all field officials to ensure smooth, fair and transparent conduct of these bye-elections. Without their hard work and devotion to duty, it would not have been possible to conduct these elections. Special thanks are also due to the electorate and the contesting candidates for participating enthusiastically in this festival of democracy at the grass roots and making it a grand success. And of course, not to forget, the extremely knowledgeable and committed staff in the Commission Headquarters, without whose involvement and commitment, the elections would be difficult. They all deserve appreciation of the highest order.



(Anil Kumar Khachi)  
State Election Commissioner  
Himachal Pradesh

Date: 12.06.2023  
Place: Shimla



**PART-B**

**REPORT**

**ON**

**BYE-ELECTIONS**

**TO**

**PANCHAYATI**

**RAJ**

**INSTITUTIONS**



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## **1) Preparation for the Elections:**

**1.1)** Electoral Rolls are the basic document to conduct any election. The Commission had earlier updated the electoral rolls of the Panchayati Raj Institutions of the State with 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2022 as qualifying date. In view of the decision of the Commission to conduct bye-elections to fill up to date vacancies in the Panchayati Raj Institutions of the State, it was decided to undertake special revision of electoral rolls of these areas with 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2023 as qualifying date so that maximum eligible young voters may exercise their right to franchise. The date for the final publication of electoral rolls was fixed on or before 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2023. (**Annexure-I**) .The total number of electors where bye-elections were conducted on 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2023 was as under:-

**Table I: District wise Electors**

<b>Sr. No.</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>No. of Electors</b>
1	Bilaspur	1598
2	Chamba	4799
3	Hamirpur	13476
4	Kangra	20359
5	Kinnaur	185
6	Kullu	3298
7	Mandi	3861
8	Shimla	1680
9	Sirmaur	5415
10	Solan	844
11	Una	28129
	<b>Total</b>	<b>83644</b>

## **2) Preparatory Activities carried out by the Commission: Directions regarding Conduct of Elections**

**2.1)** The Commission issued detailed directions to all District Election Officers (Panchayats) regarding preliminary arrangements, arrangement of ballot boxes, nominations, disclosure of specified information, deposit of amount received from the candidates and others during elections, ballot papers, counting arrangements, maintenance of Law and Order, enforcement of the Model Code of Conduct etc vide letter dated 22.12.2020 (**Annexure-II**).

## **3) Details of Casual Vacancies**

**3.1)** There were a total 222 casual vacancies in the State across different Panchayati Raj Institutions. Post wise break up of these vacancies is as under:

**Table II: Details of Casual Vacancies**

Sr. No.	Office	No. of Vacancies
1.	Zila Parishad	1
2.	Panchayat Samiti	9
3.	Pradhan	10
4.	Up-Pradhan	13
5.	Ward Member	189
	<b>Total</b>	<b>222</b>

## **4) Election Programme**

**4.1)** After the final publication of the electoral rolls, the Commission issued the election programme on 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2023 (**Annexure-III**). As per election programme, nominations were scheduled for 13<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> April, 2023. The scrutiny of nominations was directed to be carried out on 19<sup>th</sup> April, 2023, while withdrawal of nominations was permitted till 21<sup>st</sup> April, 2023. The list of contesting candidates was prepared and affixed on 21<sup>st</sup> April, 2023 immediately after the time for withdrawal was over. The list of polling stations was notified by 13<sup>th</sup> April, 2023. The poll was scheduled to be held on 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2022. The Counting of votes for the posts of Ward Members, Up-Pradhan and Pradhan of Gram Panchayats was undertaken on the date of poll immediately after the close of poll at Gram Panchayat Headquarters. Counting

of votes for members Panchayat Samiti and Member Zila Parishad took place on 4<sup>th</sup> May, 2023 at respective Development Block Headquarters. The results of elections of Ward Members, Up-Pradhan and Pradhan of Gram Panchayat were declared on 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2023, while the result of elections to Panchayat Samiti Members was declared at Block Headquarters and of Member Zila Parishad at District Headquarters on 4<sup>th</sup> May, 2023.

## **5) Model Code of Conduct**

**5.1)** In order to conduct free, fair and independent elections, the Commission enforced the Model Code of Conduct as notified by this Commission on 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 2020 for the guidance and observance by all concerned vide Notification dated 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2023 (**Annexure-IV**). Directions were issued to all Election related officers and officials to ensure strict compliance with the Model code of conduct.

## **6) Report on the Elections:**

### **6.1) Nominations:**

**6.1.1)** A total of 3 nominations were filed for the single Zila Parishad Seat i.e. Bhanjal Lower Ward No. 17 Zila Parishad in Una till the close of nominations. After scrutiny and withdrawal, 2 candidates were left in the fray.

**6.1.2)** 31 nominations were filed for the 9 Panchayat Samiti seats in districts of Chamba, Hamirpur, Kangra, Kullu, Shimla and Una. After scrutiny and withdrawal, 28 candidates were left in the fray.

**6.1.3)** For the 10 posts of Gram Panchayat Pradhan contested across the State, 36 nominations were filed till the close of nominations. After scrutiny and withdrawal, 22 candidates were left in the fray.

**6.1.4)** 13 posts of Gram Panchayat Up-Pradhan were to be contested across the State. 56 nominations were filed till the close of nominations. After scrutiny and withdrawals, only 29 candidates were left in the fray.

**6.1.5)** In addition to above, 189 ward member seats were to be contested across the State. A total of 260 nominations were filed till the close of nominations. After

scrutiny and withdrawals, 89 candidates were left in the fray. However no nominations were received for 5 seats of Gram Panchayat Ward members details of which are as below:-

1. Ward No. 3 Gharna, Development Block Dehra District Kangra .
2. Ward No. 8 Gram Panchayat Baldiyan Development Block Mashobra, District Shimla
3. Ward No. 2 Gram Panchayat Darbogh Development Block Mashobra, District Shimla.
4. Ward No. 6 Ghurana, Gram Panchayat Jambla Development Block Sundernagar District Mandi.
5. Ward No. 3 Sidhyani-I, Gram Panchayat Sidhyani Development Block Balh, District Mandi.

#### **6.2) Unopposed Election**

**6.2.1)** Out of the 9 Panchayat Samiti Wards going for election, one member of ward No. 12 Bhadal of Panchayat Samiti Jubbal-Kotkhai Development Block Jubbal, District Shimla was elected unopposed. Out of 10 Vacancies of Panchayat Pradhan, 2 were elected unopposed. Similarly, out of 13 Vacancies of Panchayat Up-Pradhan, 3 Up-Pradhans were elected Unopposed. In addition to this, out of 189 Panchayat Ward Members for which nominations were filed, 143 members were elected unopposed. Thus 75.66% of the total vacancies of Panchayat Ward Members were filled up with consensus and no voting was necessary.

**Table III: Comprehensive detail of bye-election.**

Sr. No .	Name of Post	No. of Vacancies	No. of Vacancies where no Nominations were filed.	No. of Unopposed elections	No. of Contested vacancies
1	Zila Parishad	1	0	0	1
2	Panchayat Samiti Wards	9	0	1	8
3	Gram Panchayat Pradhan	10	0	2	8
4	Gram Panchayat Up-Pradhan	13	0	3	10
5	Panchayat Wards	189	5	143	41
	<b>Total</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>68</b>

### **6.3 ) Polling Stations**

**6.3.1)** A total of 330 polling booths were set up for bye-elections to Panchayati Raj Institutions of Himachal Pradesh. The detail of district wise polling stations is mentioned in the table below:-

**Table IV: District wise detail of Polling stations**

Sr. No.	Name of District	Total No. of Polling Stations
1	Bilaspur	6
2	Chamba	25
3	Hamirpur	45
4	Kangra	75
5	Kinnaur	2
6	Kullu	87
7	Mandi	17
8	Shimla	6
9	Sirmaur	17
10	Solan	5
11	Una	45
<b>Total</b>		<b>330</b>

### **6.4) Voter Turnout**

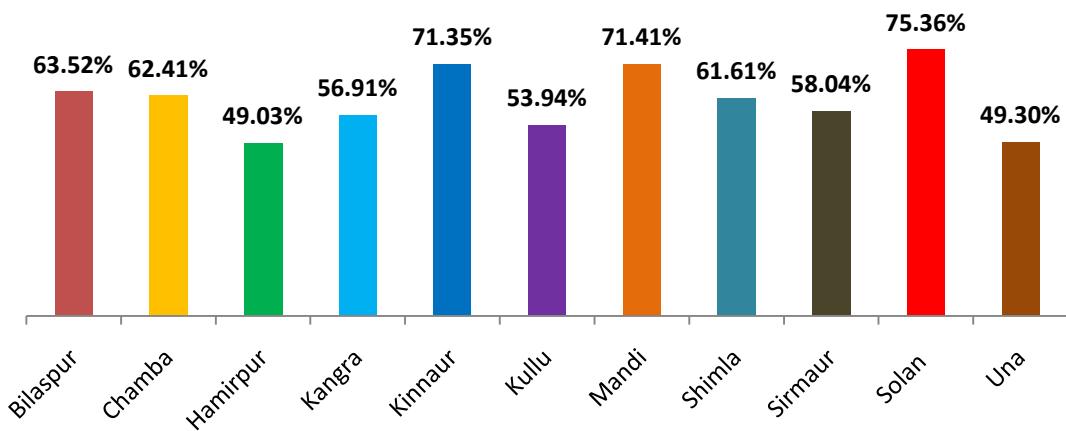
**6.4.1)** Out of the 83644 voters registered for these bye-elections, 45554 came out to cast their vote, which means a 54.46% voter turnout. Out of the total votes polled, 23378 were accounted for by female voters, contributing to 51.32% of the total votes polled. Highest polling took place in District Solan with 75.36% voting, while the lowest voter turnout was 49.03% in district Hamirpur. The district wise details of total voters as well as the number of votes cast by male and female voters is given in the next table:

**Table V: District wise Voting Percentage**

Sr. No.	District	Total No. of Voters	At the end of Poll			Vote%	
			Votes Polled		Total		
			Male	Female			
1	Bilaspur	1598	482	533	1015	<b>63.52%</b>	
2	Chamba	4799	1387	1608	2995	<b>62.41%</b>	
3	Hamirpur	13476	2989	3618	6607	<b>49.03%</b>	
4	Kangra	20359	5334	6253	11587	<b>56.91%</b>	
5	Kinnaur	185	65	67	132	<b>71.35%</b>	
6	Kullu	3298	978	801	1779	<b>53.94%</b>	
7	Mandi	3861	1301	1456	2757	<b>71.41%</b>	
8	Shimla	1680	533	502	1035	<b>61.61%</b>	
9	Sirmaur	5415	1695	1448	3143	<b>58.04%</b>	
10	Solan	844	305	331	636	<b>75.36%</b>	
11	Una	28129	6532	6765	13585*	<b>48.30%</b>	
<b>Total</b>		<b>83644</b>	<b>21601</b>	<b>23382</b>	<b>45271</b>	<b>54.12%</b>	

\*Including 288 voters who opted to vote through Postal Ballot

**Figure 1: District Wise Voting Percentage**



#### **6.5) Educational Background of Elected Candidates:**

**6.5.1)** The winning candidate from the sole Zila Parishad seat which went to poll is Matriculate (10<sup>th</sup> pass). Out of the 9 Panchayat Samiti Ward members elected, one member is a Post-Graduate, two members are graduates, three members are senior secondary school pass outs (12<sup>th</sup> pass) two are matriculates (10<sup>th</sup> pass) while one member has not completed his matriculation.

**6.5.2)** Out of 10 elected Gram Panchayat Pradhans, two pradhans have not completed matriculation. 5 pradhans are matriculates, and 3 pradhans have completed their senior secondary schooling.

**6.5.3)** Out of the 13 Gram Panchayat Up-Pradhans who were elected, 3 of them have not completed their matriculation. However one of them has done completed matriculation while another 6 Up-pradhans have completed their senior secondary schooling. Further, one Gram Panchayat Up-Pradhan is a graduate and one is a post-graduate. Also, one elected Gram Panchayat Up-Pradhan is an engineering degree holder.

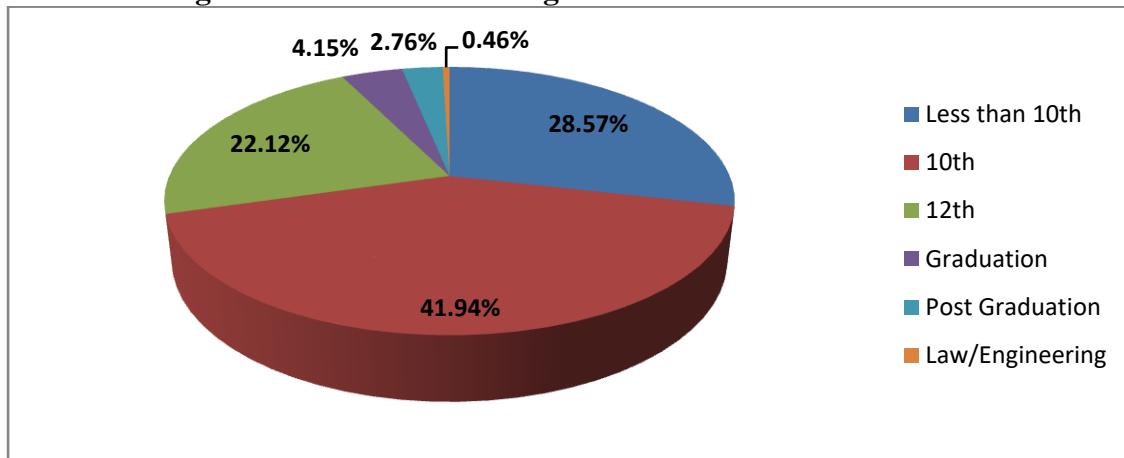
**6.5.4)** 184 Panchayat Ward member vacancies attracted nominations and were contested. 56 of the elected ward members have not completed their matriculation, 82 Gram Panchayat ward members are matriculates while another 36 have completed their senior secondary schooling. 6 of the elected Ward members are graduates while another 4 are post-graduate.

**6.5.5)** Out of the total 217 casual vacancies filled, 41.9% seats are filled by matriculates while 22.1% seats are filled by members who have completed their senior secondary schooling. However 28.6% of the elected members have not completed their matriculation. Only 4.1% are graduates and 2.8% are Post Graduates. 0.5% of the total elected members are Engineering graduates.

**Table VI: Educational Background of Elected Candidates**

Sr. No .	Office	Less than Matric ulation	Comple ted Matric ulation	12 <sup>th</sup> Class Compl eted	Gradu ation	Post Gradua tion	Law/ Enginee ring
1	Zila Parishad	0	1	0	0	0	0
2	Panchayat Samiti Wards	1	2	3	2	1	0
3	Gram Panchayat Pradhan	2	5	3	0	0	0
4	Gram Panchayat Up- Pradhan	3	1	6	1	1	1
5	Panchayat Wards	56	82	36	6	4	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>
	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>28.6%</b>	<b>41.9%</b>	<b>22.1%</b>	<b>4.1%</b>	<b>2.8%</b>	<b>0.5%</b>

**Figure 2: Educational Background of Elected Candidates.**



#### **6.6) Age Profile of Elected Candidates:**

**6.6.1)** The age of the sole elected Zila Parishad member is between 51 to 60 years. Out of the 9 Panchayat Samiti members, age of one member is between 41-50 years of age. Three Panchayat Samiti members are between 31-40 years of age and four members are between 51-60 years of age. The remaining member is more than 60 years old.

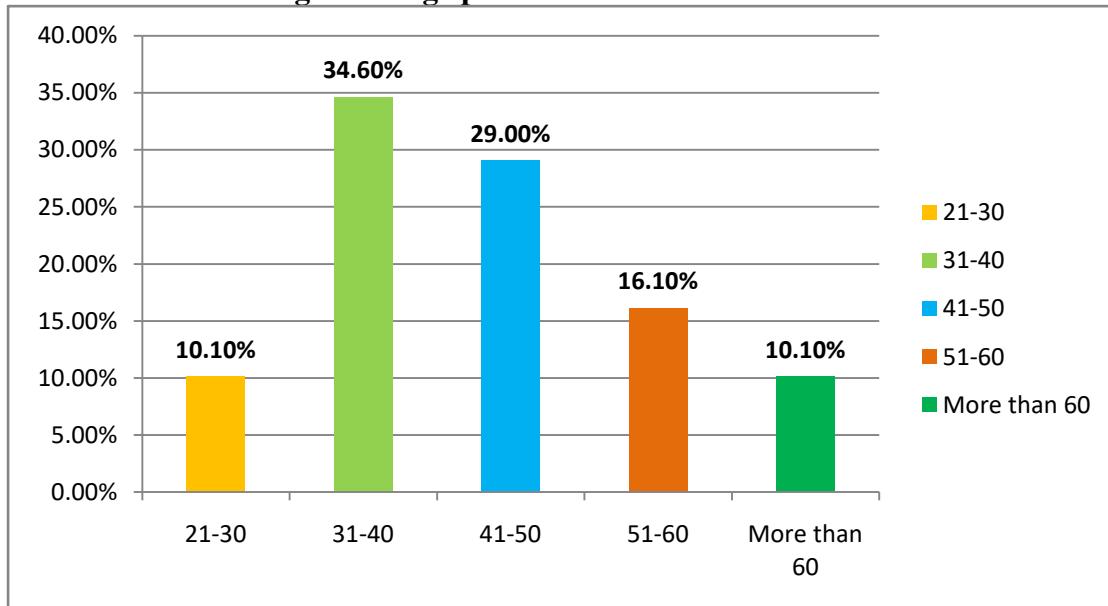
**6.6.2)** Out of 10 elected Gram Panchayat Pradhans, three pradhans are aged between 31-40 years, 41-50 years and 51-60 years each. Only one GP pradhan is between the age of 21-30 years old.

**6.6.3)** Out of the 13 Gram Panchayat Up-Pradhans, two are aged between 31-40 years, 8 have their age between 41-50 years and 1 Up-Pradhans are aged between 51-60 years. Two Up-Pradhans are younger than 30 years.

**6.6.4)** Out of the 184 elected Gram Panchayat ward members, 51 fall in the age bracket between 41-50 years, 67 have their age between 31-40 years, 26 of them are aged between 51-60 years, 19 members are between 21-30 years of age while 21 ward members are more than 60 years old.

**6.6.5)** Overall, out of the 217 elected members, 29 % of the representatives belong to the age group between 41-50 years, 34.6 % are aged between 31-40 years, while another 16.1 % are of age between 51-60 years. Elected members belonging to 21-30 years age group and more than 60 years old have the least representation, which is around 10 percent each.

**Figure 3: Age profile of Elected Candidates**



## **6.7) Results and Victory Margin**

**6.7.1)** Counting of votes with respect to Pradhans, Up-Pradhan and Ward Members was undertaken on 02.05.2023 on the day of poll itself, whereas counting of votes with respect to member Panchayat Samiti and member Zila Parishad was undertaken on 04.05.2023

**6.7.2)** There was bye-election for one member of Zila Parishad Una for Ward No. 17 Banjal Lower wherein victory margin was 2670 votes. Out of 9 Panchayat Samiti Members one member was elected unopposed, 2 candidates won by a margin of less than 10 votes, 2 won by margin of votes between 10-100 and 4 candidates won by more than 100 votes.

**6.7.3)** Among the 10 Gram Panchayat Pradhans vacancies where elections were held, two Pradhans were elected unopposed, one candidate won by less than 10 votes, 5 candidates won by margin of votes between 10-100 and 2 Gram Panchayat Pradhans won their election by a margin greater than 100 votes. For the 13 vacancies of Gram Panchayat Up-Pradhan 3 were elected unopposed, whereas polling was held for 10 seats. Two candidates won by less than 10 votes, 5 candidates won by margin of votes between 10-100 and 3 candidates won by margin of votes more than 100. For 189 vacancies of Gram Panchayat Ward Member, 143 were elected unopposed and for 5 seats no nominations were filed. Thus voting was conducted for 41 wards only. 10 candidates won by less than 10 votes, 27 candidates won by margin of votes between 10-100 and 4 candidates won by more than 100. Margin of victory for different posts are given in the table below:-

**Table VII: Margin of Victory of Elected Candidates**

Sr.No.	Office	Margin of Victory (Votes)		
		<10	10- 100	>100
1	Zila Parishad	0	0	1
2	Panchayat Samiti Wards	2	2	4
3	Gram Panchayat Pradhan	1	5	2
4	Gram Panchayat Up-Pradhan	2	5	3
5	Panchayat Wards	10	27	4
	<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>14</b>

#### **6.8) Tie during Counting of Votes:-**

After the counting of the votes for the election to Ward No. 13 Ghatu, Panchayat Samiti Ward Member Block Nirmand District Kullu one of the contesting candidates was declared winner but at the request of the Contesting Candidate a recount was

conducted and after recount there was a tie between two contesting candidates. Rule 80 of the Himachal Pradesh Panchayati Raj Election Rules, 1994 states that:-

*"If, after the counting of votes is completed and equality of votes is found to exist between any candidates and an addition of one vote will entitle any of these candidates to be declared elected, the Returning Officer shall forthwith decide between those candidates by lot and proceed as if the candidate on whom the lot falls has received an additional vote."*

Therefore, as per the provisions of the rules ibid, a lot was drawn and the contesting candidate on whose favour the lot fell was declared duly elected (**Annexure-V**)

## **7) Bye-Elections to Urban Local Bodies:**

**7.1)** In addition to above, Ward No. 9 Dadour of Municipal Council Nerchowk District Mandi , Ward No. 6 Police Thana of Nagar Panchayat Rajgarh District Sirmour and Ward No. 6 PWD Rest House Nagar Panchayat Jwali District Kangra were vacant due to resignation of the member. The Commission issued Election Programme to conduct bye-elections to the said wards on 03<sup>rd</sup> April, 2023 (**Annexure-VI**). As per election programme, nominations were scheduled to be filed on 13<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> April, 2023. The scrutiny of nominations was directed to be carried out on 19th April, 2023 while withdrawal of nominations was permitted till 21<sup>st</sup> April, 2023. Ward No. 9 Dadour of Municipal Council Nerchowk District Mandi received no nomination till the stipulated time. The list of contesting candidates was prepared and affixed on 21<sup>st</sup> April, 2023 immediately after the time for withdrawal was over. The list of polling stations was notified by 13th April, 2023. The poll was scheduled to be held on 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2023 between 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. The Counting of votes for the posts of Member Municipal Council and Nagar Panchayat was undertaken on the date of poll immediately after the close of poll at Municipal Headquarters. The results of elections of Member Nagar Panchayat was declared on 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2023. The margin of victory for Nagar Panchayat Jwali was 69 and that of Nagar Panchayat Rajgarh was 155 votes.

**ANNEXURES**

**REPORT ON**

**BYE-ELECTIONS TO**

**PANCHAYATI**

**RAJ**

**INSTITUTIONS**



# Annexure-I



## राज्य निर्वाचन आयोग हिमाचल प्रदेश STATE ELECTION COMMISSION HIMACHAL PRADESH

आर्मसडैल, शिमला-171002 Armsdale, Shimla-171002 Tel. 0177-2620152, 2620159, 2620154, Fax. 2620152  
Email secysec-hp@nic.in

No. SEC(F)1-35/2022-448

Dated the

7<sup>th</sup> March, 2023

### NOTIFICATION

In exercise of the powers vested in it under Article 243K of the Constitution of India, Section 160 of the Himachal Pradesh Panchayati Raj Act, 1994 read with Rule 22 of the Himachal Pradesh Panchayati Raj (Elections) Rules, 1994, the State Election Commission Himachal Pradesh hereby directs a special revision of electoral rolls of those Panchayats of the State wherein any casual vacancies have occurred till date. The date of determining the eligibility of a person for inclusion of the name in the electoral rolls shall be 01.01.2023 as required under Rule 14 (e) of the Rules ibid. The programme is as under:-

1	Draft publication of electoral rolls	13.03.2023
2	Filing of claims and objections before the Revising Authority	14.03.2023 to 18.03.2023
3	Disposal of claims and objections by the Revising Authority	By 23.03.2023
4	Filing of Appeals before District Election Officer (P)	By 27.03.2023
5	Disposal of Appeals by the District Election Officer (P)	By 29.03.2023
6	Final publication of electoral rolls	31.03.2023

The last updated final electoral rolls alongwith Supplementary List-2022, if any, shall be notified as draft electoral rolls under Rule 15 of the Rules ibid.

The District Election Officer (P) will appoint Revising Authorities as required under Rule 17 of the Rules ibid and ensure that wide publicity of the said appointment and of the special revision programme is made.

After the disposal of claims, objections and appeals, if any, District Election Officer (P) shall prepare a supplementary list 2023 through ERMS Software and shall issue a notice of final publication of electoral rolls on Form-15 as per schedule fixed by the Commission. The finally published electoral rolls shall be uploaded on the official website of the State Election Commission.

As soon as the notice of final publication is issued by the District Election Officer (P) the intimation of the same be sent to the Commission immediately through E-mail followed by confirmation by post. Thereafter adequate copies of the Supplementary List, 2023 shall be printed locally after completing all the codal formalities. These Supplementary List shall be added to the main electoral rolls. The last finally published electoral rolls alongwith Supplementary List, 2022, if any, and Supplementary list-2023 shall be used in the ensuing by-elections to fill the casual vacancies.

The copies of the electoral rolls be made available for sale at the cost of Rs. 5/- per page to be paid in cash against receipt. However a person interested in purchasing of electoral rolls shall have to purchase full set of the electoral rolls of the concerned Ward.

The relevant provisions and procedure of ibid Rules enshrined under Chapter-III shall be adhered to strictly for the preparation of electoral rolls through special revision. Needless to say that the aforesaid programme should be implemented in letter and spirit. If any violation of this programme is noticed, it will be in contravention of the mandate of the Constitution of India and relevant statutory provisions which may lead to serious consequences in view of Section 160-E of the Act ibid.

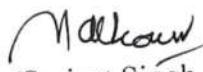
By Order  
(Anil Khachi)  
State Election Commissioner  
Himachal Pradesh

No. SEC(F)1-35/2022-449

Dated the

7<sup>th</sup> March, 2023

Copy to all the District Election Officers (P) of HP with the request to ensure that the aforesaid programme is implemented in letter and spirit :-

  
(Surjeet Singh Rathore)  
Secretary  
State Election Commission  
Himachal Pradesh.

No. SEC(F)1-35/2022-460-656 Dated

the

7<sup>th</sup> March, 2023

Copy to:-

1. The Secretary to H/E the Governor of Himachal Pradesh.
2. The Principal Secretary to the Hon'ble Chief Minister Government of HP.
3. The Chief Secretary, Government of Himachal Pradesh.
4. The Chief Electoral officer-cum-Pr. Secretary (Election) to the Govt. of H.P.
5. The Secretary (Panchayati Raj) Govt. of Himachal Pradesh.
6. The Director Panchayati Raj Department Shimla-9.

- V
7. The Director, Information and Public Relation Department Shimla for wide publicity.
  8. The Deputy Director General NIC Shimla.2 for information and necessary action please.
  9. The Director AIR/ Doordarshan, Shimla-4 for wide publicity.
  10. All the Sub-Divisional Officers (C) HP.
  11. All the Assistant District Election Officers-cum-District Panchayat Officers of HP.
  12. All the Block Development Officers of HP
  13. E-Gazette/Website.
  14. Guard File.

  
(Surjeet Singh Rathore)

Secretary  
State Election Commission  
Himachal Pradesh.



## Annexure-II

Election Matter  
Urgent/Time Bound



### राज्य निर्वाचनआयोगहिमाचलप्रदेश

STATE ELECTION COMMISSION HIMACHAL PRADESH

आर्मसडेल, शिमला-171002, Armsdale, Shimla-171002 Tel. 0177-2620152, 2620159, 2620154 Fax. 2620152

No. SEC (F)-1/2019 - ४२१५-८४०९

Dated the २२<sup>th</sup> December, 2020

To

All the Distt. Election Officers (Panchayat)-cum-  
Deputy Commissioners,  
(except Lahaul&Spiti )  
Himachal Pradesh.

**SUBJECT: CONDUCT OF ELECTION TO PANCHAYATI RAJ  
INSTITUTIONS -- DIRECTIONS THEREOF.**

Sir,

I am directed to convey for your guidance and compliance the following directions for ensuring proper, timely and smooth conduct of general elections to Panchayati Raj Institutions of all Districts except Development Block Keylong of District Lahaul&Spiti to be held as per programme issued by the Commission.

1. **PRELIMINARY ARRANGEMENTS:** The Commission has issued the Election Programme for the conduct of general elections-2020 vide Notification dated 21.12.2020. You have to make all preparatory arrangements within a short time. It is presumed that the list of staff to be deployed for this purpose has been prepared by now. If not, the same would need to be initiated immediately. You are advised to chalk-out a programme for imparting training to the Returning Officers/Assistant Returning Officers who shall be responsible for receipt of nominations, scrutiny of nomination papers, preparing list of contesting candidates, allotment of symbols and finally counting and declaration of results. The polling personnel may be given at least three rehearsals including the day fixed for collection of material for polling.

2. **ARRANGEMENT FOR BALLOT BOXES:-** It is presumed that by now you may have made the arrangements for collection of ballot boxes from State of Uttarakhand and

Rajasthan as intimated to you by the Commission vide its letter no. SEC(F)10-3/2020-5478 and 5493, dated 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2020.

There are two sizes of ballot boxes therefore, while distributing ballot boxes care should be taken that bigger boxes are provided to the Panchayats where numbers of electors are comparatively higher, smaller boxes can be used for Panchayat Samiti and Zila Parishad elections as two ballot papers pertaining to these offices will be inserted in one box and three ballot papers pertaining to Gram Panchayats will be inserted in one box therefore, bigger box should be used for the elections of Gram Panchayats.

**3. NOMINATION :** Nominations for the office of Ward Member, Up-Pradhan and Pradhan of Gram Panchayat shall be received at the Panchayat headquarters, for Members of Panchayat Samiti at the Tehsil/Block Headquarter and for Members of Zila Parishad at the Sub-Divisional/District Headquarters as the case may be. The choice of officers to be appointed as Returning Officers/Assistant Returning Officers for the conduct of elections is left to the best judgment of District Election Officers (Panchayat). However, Assistant Returning Officers may be of a reasonable rank such as Principal/Headmaster/Lecturer of Government Senior Secondary School/Govt. High School/Govt. Middle School and Assistant Engineer/Junior Engineer/Extension Officer, etc. Since, this task involves great responsibility and need to be handled with circumspection and knowledge, **an Official appointed on election duty should normally be deployed in a Panchayat other than the one which he belongs to or where he is currently stationed but should be within the same block.** The Returning Officers/Assistant Returning Officers would be responsible for counting of votes also; therefore, they should be required to fully acquaint themselves with the relevant provisions of the Acts and Rules of the subject. The appointment of Returning Officers/ Assistant Returning Officers / Presiding Officers/Polling Officers may be confirmed to the Commission as soon as the same are made.

Presiding Officers and Polling Officers may be classified on the basis of scale of pay/grade pay, their post and rank. As far as possible, Gazetted Officers be deployed as Presiding Officers failing which officials who is working in supervisory capacity only may be deployed as Presiding Officers. The Presiding Officers should be of higher scale/grade in comparison to other Polling Officers of a polling party.

**4. DISCLOSURE OF SPECIFIED INFORMATION:** As you are aware that the Commission has framed Regulations namely “**The Himachal Pradesh Panchayats and Municipalities Elections (Disclosure of Specified information by the Candidate) Regulations, 2004**”, according to which every candidate seeking election to the office of Member, Up-Pradhan and Pradhan of a Gram Panchayat shall submit the specified information in the **Annexure-I** as per rule 5 of the said regulation in the form of **an affidavit or a declaration**. Every person seeking election to Panchayat Samiti and Zila Parishad shall submit the same information, as per rule 4 read with sub-rule 2 of the regulation, in the form of **an affidavit** duly attested by Magistrate or Notary Public or Oath Commissioner. Forms in respect of Annexure-I, already stand supplied to you and is required to be issued alongwith the Nomination Form to the contesting candidates. Therefore, please ensure that the said **Annexure-I** is attached to each nomination paper so that every contesting candidate should get complete set of nomination papers.

**5. DEPOSIT OF AMOUNT RECEIVED ON ACCOUNT OF VARIOUS RECEIPTS DURING THE ELECTIONS:** While imparting the training to Returning Officers/Assistant Returning Officers, you are requested to bring it to their notice that while discharging their duty as Returning Officer/Assistant Returning Officer they will receive various amounts such as on account of sale of voter lists, amount of forfeited security and amount on account of challenging of identity of a voter etc. The amount so received shall be deposited in the following Receipt Head of Accounts:

**Major Head:-** 0070-Other Administrative Services-02-Election 101-Sale proceeds for election Forms and documents-02-Sale proceeds for election Forms and documents by State Election Commission.

As far as security money is concerned, the Assistant Returning Officer shall deposit the forfeited security money with the Returning Officer concerned immediately and it will be responsibility of Returning Officer only to deposit the forfeited security money in the Govt. Treasury immediately after receipt of such amount from Assistant Returning Officer in the following receipt Head:

**Major Head:** 0070-Other Administrative Services-02-Election 104-Fee fines foreitures-02-Fee fine forfeiture by State Election Commission.

Any miscellaneous amount received during the election shall be deposited in the following receipt head:-

**Major Head:** 0070-Other Administrative Services-02-Election 800-other receipt-03

Misc. receipt by State Election Commission.

The Returning Officer will send all the Challans in original alongwith used and unused receipt books issued to him and a summary of amount received (receipt book wise) to the Districts Election Officer (Panchayat) and retain a copy of the same with him for his record. The proforma for sending summary is as under:

S. No.	Sr. No. of receipt book	Total receipts issued from a book	Amount	Total blank receipts in a book	Full blank receipt books in total (Unused books)	Detail, if any

**Note:** Even if no receipt is issued from a receipt book it has to be mentioned in the summary of receipt book.

6. **BALLOT PAPERS:** The State Election Commission has prescribed the design of the ballot papers under rule 52. Under Rule 42, there shall be no choice of symbol i.e. symbols shall be allotted according to the symbols approved and notified by the Commission to the contesting candidates against their names as they appear in the list of the contesting candidates in alphabetical order. The name of the contesting candidates shall be written in hand on the ballot papers with a ball point pen legibly so that there is no confusion among the electors. The order of the names on ballot papers shall be the same as they appear in the list of contesting candidates. This is a massive exercise and required to be done with utmost care. The Returning Officers / Asstt. Returning Officers will select suitable officials to do the job at the block headquarter.

As you are aware that option of "NOTA" "उपरोक्त में से कोई नहीं" will also be made available on the ballot paper. For this purpose the Commission has already supplied you

sufficient number of NOTA stamps and black ink stamp pads. Therefore, you would require one block extra on the ballot paper than the number of contesting candidates to apply "NOTA" stamp in black ink. While applying the stamp on ballot paper, care must be taken that it is applied within the border of last block of the ballot paper. For example, if there are five candidates for a particular office you will keep six blocks on ballot papers. The sixth block will be used for application of NOTA stamp and the remaining portion of ballot papers after the NOTA option shall be detached with the help of metal rule leaving behind the shaded portion at the bottom.

Please keep in mind that there are maximum ten symbols printed on the ballot papers. If there are ten contesting candidates for any office, you would require ballot paper with eleven blocks i.e. ten blocks for candidates and one for NOTA. Therefore, after the time of withdrawal of candidature is over, if there are ten or more than ten candidates for any office the Returning Officer will immediately inform the District Election Officer (Panchayat) name of the post alongwith number of electors so that adequate number of ballot papers could be supplied to you by the Commission. This information must reach the District Election Officer (Panchayat) at once through quickest mode who will inform the Commission at once.

The number of symbols printed on ballot paper for members of Gram Panchayats are six symbols and ten symbols. Therefore while issuing ballot for members of Gram Panchayat care should be taken that where there are five contesting candidates ballot papers with six symbols may be provided as sixth block will be used for "NOTA" "उपरोक्त में से कोई नहीं" and where number of contesting candidates is six or more ballot paper printed with 10 symbols may be issued.

**The gap between the date of withdrawal and the date of poll is ten days.** Therefore, it has to be ensured that the writing of the names of the contesting candidates on the ballot papers is completed within a maximum of six days under the personal supervision of the **concerned Returning Officer/Assistant Returning Officer**. The Commission has now changed the colour scheme of ballot papers to be used in ensuing election. The following colour scheme of ballot paper has been prescribed for the entire State except District Kinnaur, Development Block Kaza of District LahaulSpiti and Pangti and Bharmour of District Chamba:

1. Member G.P. White
2. Up-Pradhan G.P. Yellow

- |    |             |             |
|----|-------------|-------------|
| 3. | Pradhan     | Light Green |
| 4. | Member P.S. | Pink        |
| 5. | Member Z.P. | Light Blue  |

The colour scheme for District Kinnaur, Development Block Kaza of District LahaulSpiti and Pangi and Bharmour of District Chamba will remain the same as was fixed during the general elections held in the year 2015 as these Districts / Development Block have been issued ballot papers of old stock printed in the year 2015. The colour scheme for these areas will be as under:

- |    |              |             |
|----|--------------|-------------|
| 1. | Member G.P.  | Light Blue  |
| 2. | Up-Pradhan   | White       |
| 3. | Pradhan G.P. | Yellow      |
| 4. | Member P.S.  | Light Green |
| 5. | Member Z.P.  | Pink        |

Needless to add, any lapse in the preparation of ballot papers will nullify the entire election process. Therefore, you are advised to carry out the work of preparation of ballot papers with utmost care and sense of responsibility and ensure that the persons engaged for the purpose are discharging their duty with a sense of responsibility.

**7. COUNTING ARRANGEMENTS:** Although, the Panchayat elections are expected to be peaceful, still in order to maintain law and order and peace, adequate security arrangements shall have to be made. The pattern of deployment of Police force and Home Guards at each Polling Station and at the counting centers is left to the discretion of the District Election Officer (Panchayat) who will do the needful in consultation with the Superintendent of Police of the concerned districts. In case of sensitive polling stations, additional force may be deployed. Similarly, security arrangements in the Block Headquarters, where counting of votes for the members of the Panchayat Samiti and Zila Parishad shall have to be ensured in order to maintain law and order.

**8. MAINTENANCE OF LAW AND ORDER:** The Secretary (Home) and Director General of Police have been requested to make available adequate force according to realistic projection of requirements by the District Election Officers (Panchayat)-cum-Deputy Commissioners in consultation with the Superintendent of Police of the Districts. Assessment

of requirement of police force and Home Guards may be done by you in consultation with Superintendent of Police of your Districts. After identifying, Polling Stations are required to be classified as “**sensitive**” or “**hyper-sensitive**”. The number of security personnel to be deployed for maintaining law and order at the sensitive stations will be suitably increased. Utmost care should be taken before classifying a polling station as sensitive. This exercise may be undertaken in consultation with the Superintendent of Police of your District.

The list of polling stations be categorized “**sensitive**” or “**hyper-sensitive**” and the quantum of force to be deployed may be intimated to the Commission immediately.

**9. POLLING STATIONS:** Separate Polling station has to be established for each ward of a Gram Panchayat. Care should be taken to see that polling stations established for different wards should, as far as possible, be at equal distance for the electors of the area. Polling Stations for a group of wards should be established at the Panchayat headquarters, which will also facilitate counting of votes. The buildings in which polling stations are being located should be inspected by a gazetted officer (to be recommended by you) before taking a final decision. While fixing the polling stations instructions issued by the Commission vide its letter No. SEC-16-2/2011-4820-4831 dated 12<sup>th</sup> November, 2020 may be kept in view. The polling station may not be located in a police station, hospital or a place having sectarian or religious significance. As far as possible, the polling station shall be located in a Govt. /Semi-Govt. buildings and where no such building is available, the polling station may be located in a temporary structure of adequate strength. The number of polling Stations set up in each block may be intimated to the Commission immediately.

**10. MOVEMENT PROGRAMME:** Movement programme for the polling parties should be prepared separately well in advance so that there is no cause for any confusion in the minds of the officials deputed for the purpose. Arrangement of vehicles such as buses and jeeps, wherever needed, has also to be done in advance. The Govt. of H.P. vide its notification no. PCH-HA (4)15/2000 dated 8<sup>th</sup> September, 2000 has delegated the powers of requisitioning of vehicles conferred on the State Government under Section 160-A, 160-B, and 160-C of the H.P Panchayati Raj (Amendment) Act, 2000 (Act. No. 18 of 2000), to the Deputy Commissioner within their respective Districts. The District Election Officer (Panchayat) may hire private vehicles only in extreme urgency in case Govt. vehicle are not

available at that point of time. Needless to say that in the use of vehicles utmost economy may be ensured.

**11. RETURN OF NON-CONSUMABLE ITEMS:-** Out of the material to be supplied to the polling parties some items mentioned below are non-consumable. Therefore, these items should be received after completion of poll. The Returning Officer/Assistant Returning Officer will not relieve the polling parties until the following items are received back:

1. Ballot boxes
2. Self Inking pad
3. Presiding Officer Seal
4. Rubber Seal for marking Ballot paper
5. Distinguishing mark seal
6. Material for voting Compartment
7. Metal rule for detaching ballot paper and pusher
8. Needle (Sua)
9. Cup for setting indelible ink.
10. Gunny bags.
11. NOTA Seal

Besides these RO/ARO Hand Books and Returning Officer seals may also be received from the concerned Returning Officer/Assistant Returning Officer.

**12. COUNTING CENTRE :** The counting of votes for the office of Member, Up-Pradhan and Pradhan of a Gram Panchayat will be done at the Panchayat Headquarters on the day of the poll after the close of poll. Once the poll is closed, the ballot boxes from other polling stations shall be brought to the counting centre alongwith the used/sealed ballot boxes of the Panchayat Samiti and ZilaParishad. All efforts should be made to commence counting as soon as possible on the same day. The Police personnel and the Home Guards on duty at that polling station shall accompany the polled ballot boxes to the counting centre in order to ensure absolute security of the used ballot boxes. The polled ballot boxes pertaining to Panchayat Samiti and ZilaParishad shall be transported to Block Headquarter. The District Election Officer (Panchayat) shall ensure that the polled ballot boxes may be safely transported to the Block Headquarter immediately after close of poll. Foolproof security

arrangements for transporting these boxes to the Block Headquarter may be ensured. If there is any security threat to ballot boxes during transportation, the District Election Officers may take decision to avoid night journey. In such eventuality adequate security arrangement for the safety of ballot boxes at Panchayat Headquarter may be made and these may be transported to the Block Headquarter next morning.

Since the elections are to be held during the winter season when the days are short, **adequate lighting arrangements at the counting centers shall have to be made**. In case electricity is not available or electric supply is known to be erratic in any counting centre, petromax lamps/generators / emergency light have to be arranged. **Counting of votes in candle light is not permissible**. As alternative only petromax lamps/generator / emergency light may be made available in the Block Offices and same may be hired. Police personnel/Home Guards on duty at the different polling stations in the Panchayat are required to remain on duty at the Panchayat Headquarter during the period of counting as well as up to the time of declaration of the results for maintaining law and order. In case used ballot boxes for Panchayat Samiti and Zila Parishad have to be kept at the Panchayat Headquarters, the police and Home Guard personals shall also remain there for night duty.

Counting at the Block Headquarter in respect of Panchayat Samiti Members and Zila Parishad Members shall be undertaken as per programme issued in this behalf. If counting is likely to continue till late night, adequate lighting arrangements and sufficient police force for maintaining law and order shall have to be deployed.

**13. MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT AND ITS OBSERVANCE:** With a view to maintain a healthy and peaceful atmosphere during the election period, which would be conducive for ensuring a free and fair election, the Commission has formulated a Model Code of Conduct for the guidance of political parties, candidates and others. It should be impressed upon to all concerned that Model Code of Conduct should not be violated at any stage and you are also requested to ensure that in no circumstances Model Code of Conduct is violated. Since the elections are not being held in Keylong, Development Block of District Lahaul & Spiti, therefore, Model Code of Conduct shall not be applicable in the said Block.

**14. PROHIBITION OF PUBLIC MEETING:** Section 158-B of the Himachal Pradesh Panchayati Raj Act provides that **during the period of forty-eight hours ending with the**

**hour fixed for the conclusion of poll** no person shall convene, hold, attend, join or address any public meeting or procession in connection with an election or display to the public any election matter by means of cinematography, television or other similar apparatus. It further provides that no person propagate any election matter to the public by holding or arranging any musical concert or any theatrical performance or any other entertainment or amusement with a view to attracting the numbers of the public thereto in any polling area.

**15. CONTROL ROOM:** In order to monitor the movement of the polling parties, to ensure peaceful conduct of the poll and counting of votes, control rooms shall be set up at the District Headquarters/Sub Division/ Block Headquarters three days before the poll and till the completion of counting. The District Election Officer (Panchayat) shall post a responsible person as an office-in-charge in the Control Room. The control room should have a telephone with E-Mail facility so that urgent messages are communicated to and from the District Headquarters and the Commission Headquarter on the day of poll. The control room shall function round the clock until the counting is completed at all level. In the Commission's Office, control room shall be in Room No.103 in the Armsdale building of the HP Secretariat. The telephone numbers viz. 2880740, 2620152, 2620159, 2620154 and fax No. 2620152 shall also remain open in the Commission's Office. You will **intimate the names of the Officers manning the control rooms with telephone numbers to the Commission also.**

It would be desirable to have security arrangement at the Control room to meet any exigency that may arise owing to a law and order problem in the concerned district. The requirement of force at the control room shall be decided by the District Election Officer (Panchayat) in consultation with the Superintendent of Police of the District.

**16. DEPUTATION OF STAFF AND PUNISHMENT ON BREACH OF OFFICIAL DUTY:** Section 160-E of the Panchayati Raj Act, 1994 provides that the officer or staff employed in connection with the preparation, revision and correction of the electoral roll for, and the conduct of all elections shall be deemed to be on deputation with the State Election Commission for the period during which they are so employed and such officers and staff shall, during the period, be subject to control, and Superintendence and discipline of the State Election Commission.

**17. SECTOR OFFICERS:** The District Election Officer (Panchayat) may also examine the need for having sector officers, depending upon the geographical and general law and order conditions prevailing in the District. The Sector Officers can be provided with mobile wireless sets for transmitting urgent messages. Requirement of mobile wireless sets may be intimated to the D.I.G. (Wireless) who will be requested to provide the sets.

**18. OBSERVERS:** During the election process, Observers appointed by the State Election Commission will keep a constant watch on all issues and processes of election. The Observers will use their official vehicles in the concerned areas. The payments on account of fuels consumed will be borne by the State Election Commission. The Observers will submit the bills of fuel to the concerned District Panchayat Officers who will make the payments after following due procedure. The arrangements for stay will be made by the concerned DCs/SDMs/BDOs in the Govt. Circuit/Rest Houses. All support in terms of telephone, fax, computer, internet and Assistant for typing report will be provided by the concerned DCs/SDMs/BDOs as and when required.

**19. TRANSMITTING OF URGENT MESSAGES:** Urgent messages may be sent through wireless in case e-mail, telephone and fax facilities are not available. The D.I.G. (Wireless) will be requested to transmit all message concerning elections on priority basis. He will also be requested to accept messages on credit.

**20. BAN ON THE SALE OF LIQUOR:** Liquor Vends shall remain closed and there shall be no sale of liquor, one day before the day of poll, on the day of poll and on the day of counting in the Panchayat areas. The dates for closing of liquor vends shall be notified by the District Election Officers (Panchayat)-cum- Deputy Commissioner in their respectively district, according to the notification of election programme.

**21. HAND BOOKS:** The detailed guidelines for RO/ARO and Presiding Officers have been given in the Hand Books. These books have already been provided to you alongwith election material.

**22. LOGISTICS:** The Commission has already fixed norms with regard to expenses on account of contingency, rehearsals or working in the odd hours in the offices etc. vide its letter No. SEC-2-23/2005-4377 dated 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2015. However, you may also authorize

RO / ARO to increase the contingency amount for coolieage etc. in case the polling party has to cover a considerable distance on foot alongwith election material. As for as diet money to polling parties is concerned, it will be paid to the polling parties and security personnel deputed with the polling party. During counting light refreshment will be provided to the staff deputed for counting, if the counting lasts till four hours or less. In case counting continues for more than four hours the staff deployed for counting will be provided lunch / dinner @ Rs. 100/- per head.

**23. LUMPSUM PAYMENT:-** The staff deployed on election duty may be informed that the Commission has decided to provide lumpsum payment in lieu of TA/DA on following rates:

Assistant Returning Officers	Presiding Officers	Polling Officers	Assistant Returning Officers (Reserve)	Presiding Officers (Reserve for all three phases)	Polling Officers (Reserve for all three phases)
3500/-	700/- per phase	650/- per phase	2500/-	1200/-	1000/-

You are, requested that the aforesaid directions / guidelines may be adhered to strictly in order to ensure free, fair and smooth conduct of elections to Panchayati Raj Institutions in the State.

The Commission wishes smooth success for your diligent and consistent hard work.

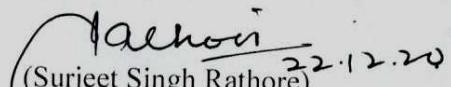
Yours faithfully,

  
 (Surjeet Singh Rathore)  
 Secretary,  
 State Election Commission,  
 Himachal Pradesh.

Endst. No. SEC(F)-1/2019 - 8215-8409 Shimla-2 Dated, the 22th December, 2020

**Copy forwarded for favour of information and necessary action to:**

1. The Additional Chief Secretary (Home) to the Govt. of H.P.
2. The Additional Chief Secretary (Excise and Taxation) to the Govt. of H.P.
3. The Director General of Police, H.P. Shimla-2
4. The Secretary (Panchayati Raj) to the Govt. of HP.
5. The Secretary (GAD/SAD) to the Govt. of H.P.
6. The Special Secretary-cum-Director, Panchayati Raj Deptt. Shimla-9.
7. All the Superintendent of Police Himachal Pradesh.
8. All the Sub-Divisional Officer (Civil) Himachal Pradesh.
9. The Additional Deputy Commissioner Kaza.
10. The Resident Commissioner Pangi District Chamba.
11. All the Assistant District Election Officer (P)-cum-District Panchayat Officer, Himachal Pradesh (Except Lahaul&Spiti District).
12. All the Block Development Officers, Himachal Pradesh.
13. Guard File.

  
(Surjeet Singh Rathore)

Secretary,  
State Election Commission,  
Himachal Pradesh.



# Annexure-III



## राज्य निर्वाचन आयोग हिमाचल प्रदेश

### STATE ELECTION COMMISSION HIMACHAL PRADESH

आर्मसडेल, शिमला-171002Armsdale, Shimla-171002 Tel. 0177-2620152, 2620159, 2620154, Fax. 2620152

Email: secysec-hp@nic.in

No.SEC(F)1-35/2022- 1490

Dated, the

1<sup>st</sup> April, 2023

#### NOTIFICATION

In exercise of the powers vested in it under Article 243K of Constitution of India, Section 131 and 160 of the Himachal Pradesh Panchayati Raj Act, 1994 and Rule 32 of Himachal Pradesh Panchayati Raj (Election) Rules, 1994, the State Election Commission Himachal Pradesh hereby notifies the election programme for the conduct of by-elections to fill up the casual vacancies of Panchayati Raj Institutions of the State that have been reported to the Commission and for which the Commission has also carried out special revision of electoral rolls. Programme is as under:-

1	Date of Notification	01.04.2023
2	The nomination papers shall be presented	On 13 <sup>th</sup> , 17 <sup>th</sup> and 18 <sup>th</sup> April, 2023 (between 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 P.M.). Nomination papers shall be filed at the place and before the officers appointed by the Returning Officer
3	The nomination papers shall be scrutinised	On 19.04.2023 (from 10:00 a.m. onwards).
4	A candidate may withdraw his candidature	On 21.04.2023 (between 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.) .
5	The list of contesting candidates shall be prepared and affixed	On 21.04.2023 immediately after the time of withdrawal is over. The list of contesting candidates will show the name of symbols allotted to them .
6	The list of polling stations shall be pasted	The list of polling stations shall be published and pasted on or before 13.04.2023
7	The Poll, if necessary shall be held	On 02.05.2023 (between 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.)
8	The counting, in the event of poll shall be done	Counting of votes for the posts of Members, Up-Pradhan and Pradhan of Gram Panchayat shall be undertaken on the date of poll immediately after the close of poll at Gram Panchayat Headquarters. Counting of votes for Members Panchayat Samiti and Member Zila Parishad shall be taken up on 04.05.2023 at respective Development Block Headquarters. Counting shall start at 9:00 a.m. and would continue (for a constituency) until it is completed.
9	The result of election shall be declared	The result of elections of Members, UP-Pradhan and Pradhan of Gram Panchayat shall be declared immediately after the counting is over. The result of elections to Panchayat Samiti Members shall be declared at the Block Headquarters immediately after the counting process is over. The result of election to Zila Parishad shall be declared

	in accordance with the provisions contained in rule 75(vi) of the Himachal Pradesh Panchayati Raj (Election) Rules, 1994.
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The electoral rolls updated with 01.01.2023 as qualifying date through special revision shall be used for the conduct of these elections. However, any eligible elector can apply for inclusion of name under Rule 24(3) of the ibid Rules to the District Election Officers (Panchayats) after paying fee of rupees two in cash against receipt, or for correction under Rule 23 of the Rules ibid in the electoral roll not later than nine days before last date fixed for filing of nomination papers.

**The process of elections shall be completed by 06.05.2023.**

**By Order**

(Anil Kumar Khachi)  
State Election Commissioner  
Himachal Pradesh

No.SEC(F)1-35/2022- 1491-1501

Dated, the

**1<sup>st</sup> April, 2023**

Copy forwarded to All the District Election Officers (Panchayat)- cum-Deputy Commissioners/ (Except Lahaul-Spiti) Himachal Pradesh for information and necessary action. They shall issue Notice of Elections Programme in accordance with the provisions contained in Rule 33 of the Rules ibid. A copy of notice in Form-17 as required under Rules ibid may be sent to this office without fail for information. Further, the instructions/ guidelines/ handbooks issued by the Commission during the General Elections 2021 shall be adhered to strictly wherever applicable.

  
(Surjeet Singh Rathore)  
Secretary  
State Election Commission  
Himachal Pradesh.

No.SEC(F)1-35/2022- 1502-1640

Dated, the

**1<sup>st</sup> April, 2023**

1. The Secretary to H/E the Governor of Himachal Pradesh.
2. The Principal Private Secretary to the Hon'ble Chief Minister Government of Himachal Pradesh.
3. The Chief Secretary, Government of Himachal Pradesh.
4. The Secretary, Vidhan Sabha Himachal Pradesh , Shimla-4.
5. All the Special/ Sr. Private Secretaries to the Cabinet Ministers to the Govt. of H.P.
6. All the Additional Chief Secretaries to the Govt. of Himachal Pradesh.
7. Chief Electoral Officer-cum-Secretary- (Election) Shimla-2
8. All the Principal Secretaries/ Secretaries to the Govt. of Himachal Pradesh.

9. The Principal Secretary (GAD) to the Govt. of H.P. with the request that the day of poll in Panchayat Concerned be declared a paid holiday. It should also be declared a Public Holiday under the Negotiable Instrument Act in order to enable the electors to exercise their right to franchise.
10. The Secretary (Panchayati Raj) to the Government of HP.
11. The Director General of Police, Himachal Pradesh.
12. The Director-cum- Special Secretary, (Panchayati Raj) , Government of Himachal Pradesh.
13. All the Superintendent of Police, (Except Lahaul-Spiti) Himachal Pradesh.
14. The Director, Information and Public Relation Department Shimla with the request that wide publicity may please be ensured to the election programme as issued above.
15. Director AIR/ Doordarshan, Shimla-4 with the request that wide publicity may please be ensured to the election programme.
16. All the Assistant District Election Officers-cum-District Panchayat Officers, (Except Lahaul-Spiti) Himachal Pradesh for information and necessary action.
17. All the Block Development Officers (Except Lahaul-Spiti) Himachal Pradesh.
18. E Gazette.
19. Guard File.



(Surjeet Singh Rathore)  
Secretary  
State Election Commission  
Himachal Pradesh



# Annexure-IV

TIME BOUND  
ELECTION MATTER  
URGENT



## राज्य निर्वाचन आयोग हिमाचल प्रदेश

STATE ELECTION COMMISSION HIMACHAL PRADESH

आगस्टडेल, शिमला-171002 Armsdale, Shimla-171002 Tel. 0177-2620152, 2620159, 2620154, Fax. 2620152

secysec-hp@nic.in

No.SEC(F)1-35/2022- 1261

Dated, the

1<sup>st</sup> April, 2023

### NOTIFICATION

Whereas the State Election Commission has issued election programme for the conduct of by-election to casual vacancies in Panchayati Raj institutions in the State, vide Notification No.SEC (F)1-35/2022 dated 01<sup>st</sup> April, 2022;

Therefore, the State Election Commission in exercise of the powers vested in it under Article 243K of the Constitution of India and Section 160 of the Himachal Pradesh Panchayati Raj Act, 1994, hereby directs that the Model Code of Conduct as notified by this Commission vide Notification No.SEC-16-29/2000-I-3768 dated 03<sup>rd</sup> November, 2020 shall come into force with immediate effect in the territorial jurisdiction of those Gram Panchayats, Panchayat Samiti and Zila Parishad wherein, by elections are scheduled to be held on 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2023, till the election process is completed, as under:-

Sr. No.	Name of institution	Territorial Jurisdiction where the Model Code of Conduct is enforced
1	Gram Panchayat	Entire Gram Panchayat shall come under the Model Code of Conduct where by-elections to Pradhan, Up-Pradhan and Member are being held.
2	Panchayat Samiti	Entire Development Block shall come under the Model Code of Conduct where by-elections to Member Panchayat Samiti are being held except the territorial jurisdiction of Municipalities within Block.
3	Zila Parishad	Entire District shall come under the Model Code of Conduct where by-elections to Member Zila Parishad are being held except territorial jurisdiction of Municipalities within district.

By Order  
(Anil Kumar Khachi)  
State Election Commissioner  
Himachal Pradesh

No.SEC(F)1-35/2022- 1262 - 1489

Copy is forwarded to:-

Dated, the

1<sup>st</sup> April, 2023

1. The Secretary to H.E. the Governor of H.P.
2. The Principal Secretary to the Hon'ble Chief Minister, H.P.
3. The Secretary, Vidhan Sabha Himachal Pradesh, Shimla-4.
4. All the Special / Sr. Private Secretaries to the Ministers of the Govt. of H.P.
5. The Chief Secretary to the Govt. of H.P.
6. All Additional Chief Secretaries to the Govt. of Himachal Pradesh.
7. All Principal Secretaries/Secretaries to the Govt. of Himachal Pradesh.
8. The Chief Electoral Officer-cum-Secretary (Election) HP.
9. The Director General of Police, Himachal Pradesh.
10. The Director Panchayati Raj Department HP.
11. All the Deputy Commissioners (Except Lahaul Spiti) Himachal Pradesh.
12. All the Superintendent of Police (Except Lahaul Spiti) Himachal Pradesh.
13. The Director, Information and Public Relation Department Shimla-2, for vide publicity.
14. The Director AIR / Doordarshan, Shimla-4, for wide publicity.
15. The Resident Commissioner Pangi District Chamba
16. All the Sub-Divisional Officers (C) Himachal Pradesh.
17. All the District Panchayat Officers (Except Lahaul Spiti) HP.
18. All the Block Development Officers (Except Lahaul Spiti) HP.
19. E- Gazette.
20. Guard File.

  
(Surjeet Singh Rathore)  
Secretary  
State Election Commission  
Himachal Pradesh

## Annexure-V

### FORM-37

(See rule 75)

### FORM OF RETURN OF ELECTION OF MEMBER OF PANCHAYAT SAMITI

Election of Member of Panchayat Samiti from Constituency No. 13-GHATOO of  
Panchayat Samiti NIRMAND

Sl. No.	Name of candidate	No. of valid votes cast in favour of the candidate
1	2	3
1)	KASHMIRI LAL	291
2)	PREM CHAND	96
3)	MAN CHAND	124
4)	SITA RAM	291+1 =292 (by Lottery)
5)	GIAN CHAND	131

\*

(A) Total No. of valid votes .....933.....

(B) Total No. of votes for NOTA ...10.....

(C) Total No. of rejected votes.....11.....

(D) Total No. of votes polled (A+B+C) .....954.....

(E) Total No. of tendered votes .....

I declare that-

(Name : SITA RAM

Address VILLAGE & PO SHARVI

SUB TEHSIL NITHER, DISTT. KULLU H.P. (ELECTED BY LOTTERY)

has been duly elected.



Returning Officer.

Dated the [4<sup>th</sup> Day of May, 2023]

\*In case of dearth of space, back page may be used.



# Annexure-VI

**Top Priority**  
**Election Matter**



## राज्य निर्वाचन आयोग हिमाचल प्रदेश

### STATE ELECTION COMMISSION HIMACHAL PRADESH

आमजडेल शिमला-171002 , Armsdale, Shimla-171002 Tel. 0177-2620152, 2620159, 2620154, Fax. 2620152  
e-mail: secysec-hp@nic.in

No.SEC(F)2-10/2022-1679

Dated

03<sup>rd</sup> April, 2023

#### NOTIFICATION

In exercise of the powers vested in it under Article 243-ZA of the Constitution of India, Section 281 of Himachal Pradesh Municipal Act, 1994 read with Rule 35 of the Himachal Pradesh Municipal (Election) Rules, 2015, to fill up the casual vacancies in Ward No. 9 Dadour of Municipal Council Nerchowk District Mandi, Ward No. 6 Police Thana of Nagar Panchayat Rajgarh District Sirmour and Ward No. 6 PWD Rest House Nagar Panchayat Jawali district Kangra, the State Election Commission hereby issues the following programme:-

1	Date of Notification	03 <sup>rd</sup> April, 2023
2	Nomination papers shall be presented:	On 13 <sup>th</sup> , 17 <sup>th</sup> & 18 <sup>th</sup> April, 2023 (between 11.00 am to 3.00 pm). Nomination papers shall be filed at designated places and before the Officers appointed by the Returning Officer for the purpose.
3	The nomination papers shall be scrutinized:	On 19 <sup>th</sup> April, 2023 (From 10.00 AM onwards)
4	A candidate may withdraw his candidature:	On 21 <sup>st</sup> April, 2023 (Between 10.00 am to 3.00 p.m.)
5	List of contesting candidates showing the names of symbols allotted to them shall be prepared and affixed:	On 21 <sup>th</sup> April, 2023 immediately after the time of withdrawal is over.
6	List of Polling stations shall be published:	On or before 13 <sup>th</sup> April, 2023.
7	The Poll, if necessary, shall be held from <u>8:00 AM to 4:00 PM</u> :	On 2 <sup>nd</sup> May, 2023

8	Counting of votes and declaration of result in the event of Poll, shall be done:	<b>On 02.05.2023 immediately after close of poll at the Municipal Headquarters</b>
9	The process of election shall be completed	By 3 <sup>rd</sup> May, 2023.

The electoral rolls updated with 01.01.2023 as qualifying date through special revision and fixed for final publication on 06.04.2023 shall be used for the conduct of these elections. However, any eligible elector with 01.01.2023 as qualifying date under Rule 17(a) of the Rules ibid can apply to Electoral Registration Officer for inclusion of his/her name in the electoral rolls under Rule 28 of the Rules ibid after paying Rs. 50/- . The application shall be received not later than eight days before last date fixed for filing of nomination papers. **The applications under this Rule shall be received even on holidays.** A supplementary list shall be prepared and added to the main electoral rolls. Even if, there is no inclusion or correction in the electoral rolls, 'Nil' inclusion or correction as the case may be shall be shown and attached to the main electoral rolls.

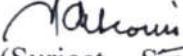
(By Order)  
 (Anil Kumar Khachi)  
 State Election Commissioner  
 Himachal Pradesh.

No.SEC(F)2-10/2022 -1680 -85      Dated

03<sup>rd</sup> April, 2023

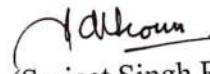
**Copy to:-**

1. The District Election Officers(Municipalities)-cum- Deputy Commissioners Mandi, Kangra and Sirmour with the request to ensure that the Election Programme issued by the Commission is adhered to strictly.
2. The Returning Officers-cum- Sub-Divisional Officer (C) Nagar Panchayat Rajgarh, Balh and Jawali for information and necessary action. They will issue Notice of Election Programme in accordance with the provisions contained in Rule 36 of the Himachal Pradesh Municipal (Election) Rules, 2015 on the same date on which the State Election Commission has issued, supra notification. Further, the instructions/ guidelines/ handbooks issued by the Commission during the General Elections 2021 shall be adhered to strictly wherever applicable. A copy of notice in Form-19 required under ibid Rules may be sent to this office for information.

  
 (Surjeet Singh Rathore)  
 Secretary  
 State Election Commission  
 Himachal Pradesh.

Copy forwarded for information and necessary action to:

1. The Secretary to H.E. the Governor of H.P.
2. The Principal Secretary to the Hon'ble Chief Minister, H.P.
3. The Chief Secretary to the Govt. of H.P.
4. The Secretary, Vidhan Sabha Himachal Pradesh, Shimla-4.
5. All the Special / Sr.Private Secretaries to the Cabinet Ministers to the Govt. of H.P.
6. All the Principal Secretaries/Secretaries to the Govt. of Himachal Pradesh.
7. The Principal Secretary (GAD) to the Govt. of HP with the request that the day of poll in Nagar Panchayat Jawali district Kangra, Nagar Panchayat Rajgarh district Sirmour and Municipal Council Ner Chowk District Mandi may be declared a paid holiday under Negotiable Instrument Act in order to enable the electors to exercise their right of franchise.
8. The Director General of Police, Himachal Pradesh.
9. The Director, Urban Development Deptt. Shimla-2.
10. The Superintendents of Police, DistrictKangra, Sirmour and Mandi H.P.
11. The Director, Information and Public Relation Deptt. Shimla with the request that wide publicity may please be ensured to the election programme as issued above.
12. The Director AIR/ Doordarshan, Shimla-4, with the request that wide publicity may please be ensured of the Election Programme.
13. E- Gazette.
14. Guard File.

  
(Surjeet Singh Rathore)  
Secretary  
State Election Commission  
Himachal Pradesh.

