

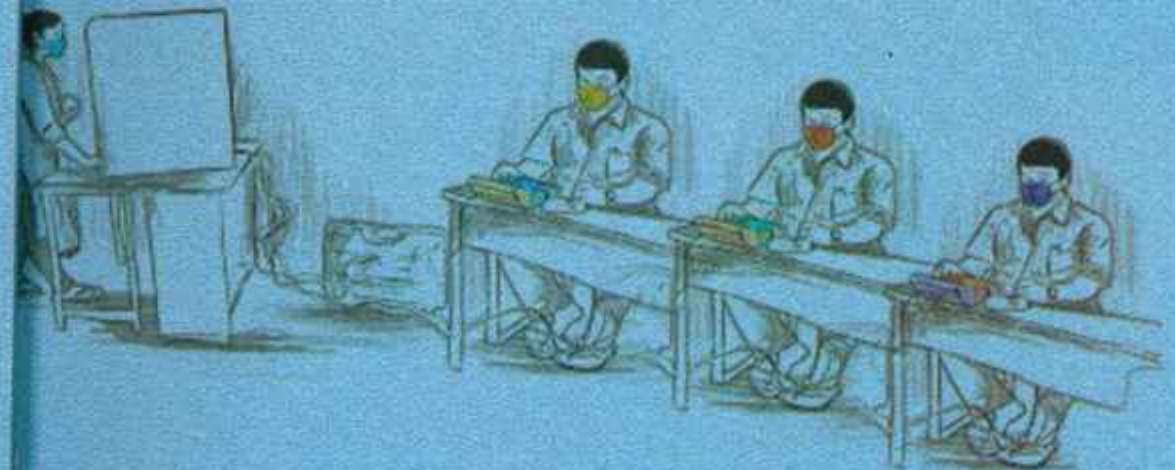


STATE ELECTION COMMISSION, KERALA

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM



ELECTION REPORT-2020





STATE ELECTION COMMISSION, KERALA

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

ELECTION REPORT-2020

Election Report 2020

March 2021

Published by
Secretary,
Kerala State Election Commission, Kerala
"Janahitham",
TC 27/6(2), Vikas Bhavan P.O.,
Thiruvananthapuram - 695 033

Printed at : Gramalakshmi Mudralayam, Thiruvananthapuram

Copies : 2000

-- Not for Sale --



PREFACE

The State Election Commission, Kerala concluded the General Election 2020 to Local Self Government Institutions in Kerala successfully amid the Covid-19 Pandemic situation. The conduct of election within the time frame in the pandemic situation was an unprecedented challenge to the Commission. As far as the Commission is concerned, the constitutional mandate to conduct election in time bound manner was on one side and the restrictions imposed by the Government in view of Covid-19 Pandemic was on the other side.

The Commission had initiated preparations to complete all election process before the expiry of existing local bodies as envisaged in the Article 243 E and 243 U of the Constitution of India . But due to the unexpected and unfamiliar outbreak of Pandemic which affected the whole world had turned all the plans upside down. Valuable time was lost due to the nation wide lockdown. Considering the urgency and importance of the situation, the Commission started functioning full swing when some relaxation was given to the lockdown restrictions.

There was widespread demand from all quarters to postpone the election. Considering the widespread of the pandemic, the State Government and the political parties also had suggested to postpone the elections. After assessing the whole situation the Commission decided to conduct the election in the month of December 2020 and the whole process was completed accordingly.

The election had witnessed unprecedented scenes of the Polling Officers distributing the Ballots to the voters at their homes by wearing Personal Protective Equipments (PPE). Voters arriving at the polling stations by wearing PPE is also a scene witnessed in this election.

It is a matter of great pride for the Commission that General Election 2020 was concluded in a free and fair manner with the support of Government, Political Parties, Candidates and Public. I am thankful to all concerned for the support and co-operation extended to the Commission for conducting the election. The officers and staff of the State Election Commission who worked day and night certainly merit a word of appreciation.

The Commission is very happy to bring out a Report on General Elections, 2020 to the Local Self Government Institutions. I hope this report will provide more information regarding the conduct of General Election 2020 to Local Self Government Institutions.

26.03.2021

V.Bhaskaran
State Election Commissioner

CONTENTS

I	INTRODUCTION	1
II	DUTIES, FUNCTIONS & POWERS OF THE STATE ELECTION COMMISSION	5
III	OFFICE ADMINISTRATION	10
IV	ELECTION OFFICIALS	12
V	PREVIOUS ELECTIONS TO LOCAL SELF GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS	17
VI	GENERAL ELECTION 2020	23
VII	ELECTORAL ROLL OF LOCAL BODIES 2020	32
VIII	VARIOUS ELECTION ACTIVITIES	39
IX	NOTIFICATION OF GENERAL ELECTION 2020	60
X	ELECTION RESULT	71
XI	ELECTION OF HEADS & DEPUTY HEADS OF LOCAL BODIES	75
	ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	78

ANNEXURES

I	LIST OF OFFICERS & STAFF IN THE STATE ELECTION COMMISSION	80
II	PROCEEDINGS FOR THE CONDUCT OF ELECTION	83
III	GUIDELINES FOR THE CONDUCT OF ELECTION	86
IV	POLITICAL PARTIES & SYMBOLS	95
V	GUIDELINES FOR SPECIAL POSTAL BALLOTS	103
VI	LIST OF POLITICAL FRONTS & PARTIES	116
VII	ELECTION RESULT - PARTYWISE SEATS	118
VIII	ELECTION RESULT - VOTE SHARE OF POLITICAL PARTIES	122

Chapter - I

INTRODUCTION

The 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments gave the Constitutional status to Panchayat Raj Institutions and Urban local bodies respectively, in both letter and spirit in order to bring about greater decentralization and increase the involvement of the community in planning and implementing schemes, and thus increase accountability. The political empowerment of Panchayat Raj Institutions and Urban local bodies has been firmly established by way of decentralized governance of the elected representatives of the three tier Panchayat Raj Institutions and Urban local bodies.

The State Election Commission is constituted under Articles 243 K and 243 ZA of the Constitution of India for the superintendence, direction and control of the preparation of the electoral rolls for, and the conduct of all elections to the Panchayats and the Municipalities in the State. The State Election Commission, Kerala came into existence on 3rd December 1993. The State Election Commissioner is appointed by the Governor of Kerala under clause (1) of Article 243 K of the Constitution of India. The Government, as per Notification SRO No. 978/2013 issued in GO (Ms) No. 378/2013/LSGD, dated 05.12.2013 have conferred on the State Election Commissioner the status, salary and allowances of a Judge of the High Court. The tenure of the State Election Commissioner is for a period of five years from the date he assumed charge or till he attains the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.

The State Election Commissioner was one of the members of the Delimitation Commission of India, setup under Delimitation Act 2002, to

delimit the boundaries of Assembly and Parliamentary constituencies in the State. State Election Commissioner is also the Chairman of the State Delimitation Commission constituted by the Government from time to time, to delimit the constituencies of Panchayats and wards of Municipalities and Municipal Corporations in the State.

Shri. M. S. K. Ramaswamy was the first State Election Commissioner. He assumed charge on the 8th of December 1993 and completed his term of office on 22.09.1996. Then, Shri. M. S. Joseph took charge as the State Election Commissioner on the 29th of September 1996 and continued upto the 17th of January 2001. Shri. N. Mohandas was then appointed as the State Election Commissioner and he assumed charge on the 5th of April 2001. He completed his tenure on the 4th of April 2006. Shri. P. Kamalkutty then took charge as State Election Commissioner on the 17th of April 2006 and completed his tenure on 16th April 2011. The 5th Commissioner was Sri. K. Sasidharan Nair, who took charge on 18th April, 2011. He completed his term of office on 19.02.2016. An abstract of the details of the former Commissioners is given below in the Table I

TABLE I
FORMER STATE ELECTION COMMISSIONERS

Sl No.	Name	Period	
		From	To
1	Sri.M.S.K Ramaswami, IAS (Rtd)	08.12.1993	22.09.1996
2	Sri.M.S.Joseph, IAS (Rtd)	29.09.1996	17.01.2001
3	Sri.N.Mohandas, District Judge (Rtd)	05.04.2001	04.04.2006
4	Sri.P.Kamalkutty, IAS (Rtd)	17.04.2006	16.04.2011
5	Sri.K.Sasidharan Nair, District Judge (Rtd)	18.04.2011	20.02.2016

Sri. V.Bhaskaran, is the present State Election Commissioner. He was appointed by the Governor of Kerala vide Notification No. GO(P) No. 18/2016/LSGD dated 23.03.2016 (SRO No. 288/2016) and at the time of appointment he was working as Principal District Judge, Kozhikode District. He took charge as State Election Commissioner on 31st March 2016

The Headquarters of State Election Commission is located at "Janahitham" a newly constructed multistoried building situated nearby the Legislative Assembly Complex, Vikas Bhavan, Palayam, Thiruvananthapuram. The building is six storied, and has a total Plinth Area of 1997 square meters. The building has state of the art amenities and other infrastructure facilities like high end projectors, Public Address system, Conferencing system with Video conferencing facility etc.



Sri.Pinarai Vijayan, Chief Minister of Kerala inaugurates the office building of State Election Commission. Sri.A.C.Moideen, Minister for Local Self Government Institutions; Sri.G.Sudhakaran, Minister for PWD, Sri.V.S.Sivakumar MLA; Sri.V.Bhaskaran, State Election Commissioner, Sri.K.Sreekumar, Corporation Mayor, Sri.K.Sasidharan Nair, Former State Election Commissioner, were also present.

The first General Election to Local Self Government Institutions in Kerala was conducted in 1995. After that General Elections were held in 2000, 2005, 2010 and 2015 respectively. The last General Election to all Local Self Government Institutions, except Mattannur Municipality was held in December 2020.



Foundation Stone Laying function of the headquarters building. Sri.P.Sadasivam, Former Governor of Kerala; Sri.Oommen Chandy, Former Chief Minister; Former Ministers Sri.V.K.Ibrahimkunju & Sri.M.K.Muneer, Sri.K.Muraleedharan, Former MLA and Sri.K.Sasidharan Nair, Former State Election Commissioner; Smt.P.Geetha, Former Secretary, State Election Commission were present.

Chapter - II

DUTIES, FUNCTIONS AND POWERS OF THE STATE ELECTION COMMISSION

1. DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS

The first and foremost duty of the State Election Commission is to supervise, direct and control the preparation of electoral rolls of Panchayats and Municipalities and for the conduct of elections, in accordance with Article 243 K and 243 ZA of the Constitution of India. As the Chairman of the State Delimitation Commission, the State Election Commissioner plays a vital role in the works connected with delimitation of the wards or constituencies of Local Self Government Institutions in Kerala.

In addition to the above, the State Election Commissioner is vested with the following powers conferred by the Kerala Panchayat Raj Act, 1994, the Kerala Municipality Act, 1994 and the Kerala Local Authority (Prohibition of Defection) Act 1999:

- i) to determine wards/constituencies reserved for Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe or Woman.
- ii) to determine the seats of President, Vice President, Chairman, Deputy Chairman, Mayor, Deputy Mayor - reserved for SC, ST or Women.
- iii) to determine the seats of Members and Chairman of various Standing Committees - reserved for women
- iv) to conduct the election of President/Vice President of Panchayats, Chairperson/ Deputy Chairperson of Municipalities, and Mayor/ Deputy Mayor of Corporations.

- v) to conduct the election of members of District Planning Committees.
- vi) To conduct Election to various Standing Committees in the Local Self Government Institutions.
- vii) to scrutinise the election expenses /accounts submitted by the candidates, who contested in the election to Local Self Government Institutions, and to disqualify the candidates who failed to submit accounts of election expenses or spent more than the prescribed limit. [According to the Kerala Panchayat Raj (Conduct of Election) Rules, 1995/ Kerala Municipality (Conduct of Election) Rule, 1995) the expenditure of a candidate should not exceed Rs.25,000 to a constituency in a Grama Panchayat, Rs.75,000 in a Block Panchayat, Rs.150,000 in a District Panchayat, Rs.75,000 in a Municipality and Rs.150,000/- in a Municipal Corporation]
- viii) to decide the disqualification of elected members in accordance with the provisions of the Kerala Panchayat Raj Act, 1994 and the Kerala Municipality Act, 1994.
- ix) to decide disputes on the question of resignation of Member/ Councillor, President/Vice President, Chairperson/Deputy Chairperson, Mayor/Deputy Mayor of Local Self Government Institutions.
- x) to decide whether a member of a local authority has become subject to a disqualification under the provisions of the Kerala Local Authority (Prohibition of Defection) Act, 1999.
- xi) to conduct meeting in local bodies to discuss and decide on the motion of no- confidence against President/Vice President of Panchayat and Chairperson/ Deputy Chairperson of Municipalities and Mayor / Deputy Mayor of Municipal Corporations and Chairman of Standing Committees.

2. POWERS OF THE COMMISSION

The State Election Commission has the following powers under Section 139 of the Kerala Panchayat Raj Act, 1994 in respect of enquiry and examination on issues relating to disqualification of a candidate or an

elected member as provided under sub section (2) of Section 34 or Section 36 or section 155 (3) of Kerala Panchayat Raj Act or sub section (2) of Section 90 or Section 92 or Section 40(3) of Kerala Municipality Act, namely :-

- a. summoning and enforcing the attendance of any person and examining him on oath;
 - b. requiring the discovery and production of any document or other material object producible as evidence;
 - c. receiving the evidence of affidavits;
 - d. requisitioning any public record or a copy thereof from any court or office;
 - e. issuing summons for the examination of witness or documents.
- (2). The Commission shall also have the power to require any person including Government Officials, subject to any privilege which may be claimed by that person under law for the time being in force, to furnish information on such points or matters as in the opinion of the Commission may be useful for, or relevant to, the subject matter of enquiry.
 - (3). The Commission shall be deemed to be a civil court and when any such offence, as is described in Section 175, Section 178, Section 179, Section 180 or Section 228 of the Indian Penal Code (Central Act 45 of 1860), is committed in the view or presence of the Commission, the Commission may, after recording the facts constituting the offence and the statement of the accused as provided for in the code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (Central Act 2 of 1974), forward the case to a Magistrate having jurisdiction to try the same and the Magistrate to whom any such case is forwarded shall proceed to hear the complaint against the accused as if the case had been forwarded to him under Section 346 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973.
 - (4). Any proceeding before the Commission shall be deemed to be a judicial proceeding within the meaning of Section 193 and Section 228 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 (Central Act 45 of 1860).

3. DETERMINATION OF DISQUALIFICATION OF MEMBERS

The Kerala Panchayat Raj Act, 1994 and the Kerala Municipality Act, 1994 enumerate various circumstances under which a member of a local body becomes disqualified. The question whether a member of a local body has become disqualified after having been elected as a member, is decided by the State Election Commissioner. It is a unique provision in the Acts enabling a voter to call back his representative if he fails to perform his statutory obligations and duties to a voter or to the community he represents. Another important function of the Commission is to decide the question of disqualification arising out of the defection under the provisions of the Kerala Local Authority (Prohibition of Defection) Act, 1999. Accordingly, if a member of a political party, after having been elected with the support of that political party, takes a different stand from that of the political party, it is nothing but disloyalty. Such persons are liable to be declared as disqualified from being a member of the local body for six years from the date of such declaration by the State Election Commission. The Commission is vested with judicial powers in deciding the question of disqualifications aforesaid. 329 cases were filed before the Commission for the period from 01.12.2015 to 30.11.2020 out of which, 267 cases have been disposed of by the Commission where in 114 members of the local bodies have been declared disqualified by the Commission.



A front view of Headquarters. The Building was inaugurated on 28th May 2020 by Sri.Pinarayi Vijayan, Honourable Chief Minister of Kerala.

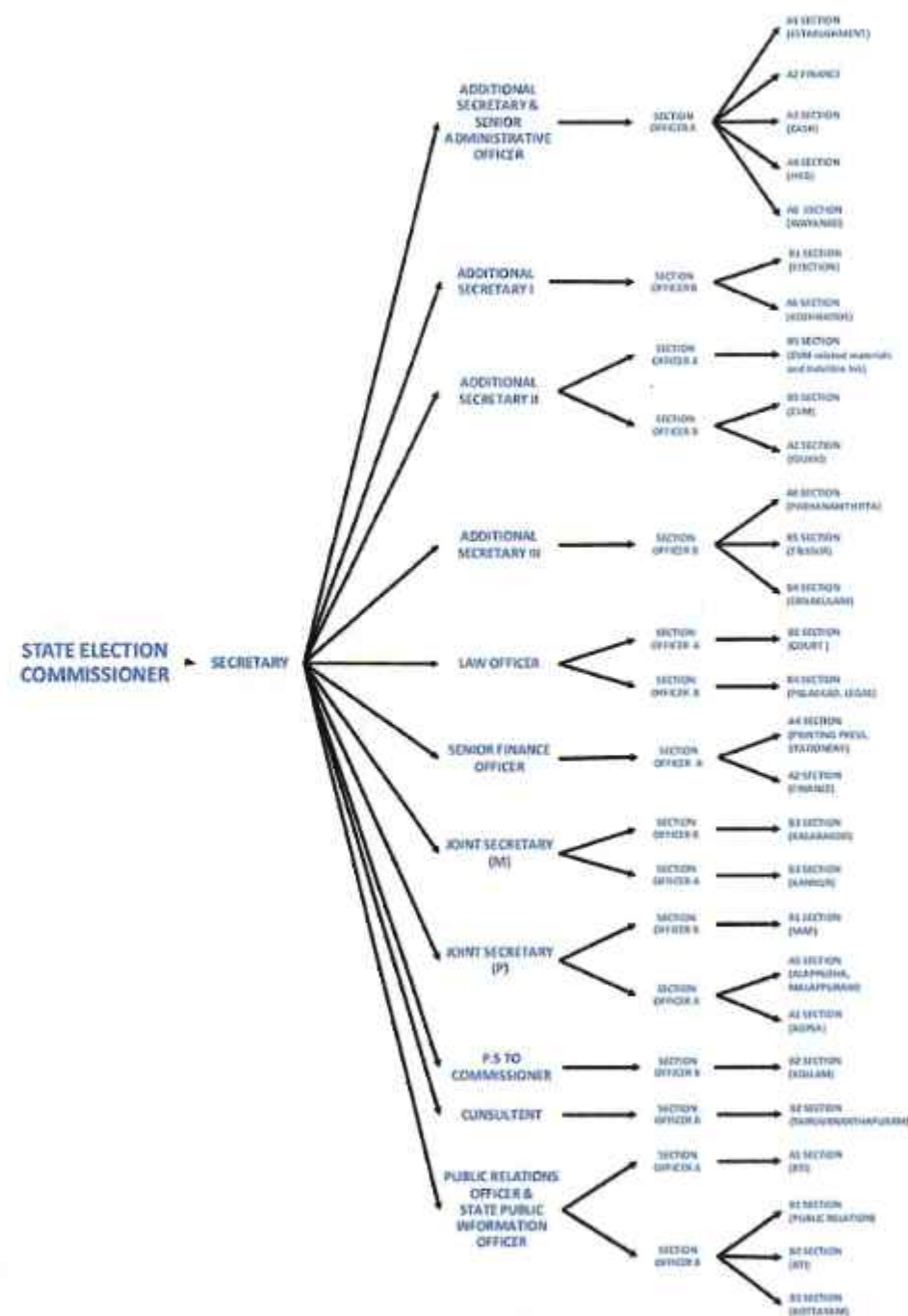
Chapter - III

OFFICE ADMINISTRATION

The State Election Commissioner is the head of the office of the Commission. An officer not below the rank of Additional Secretary to Government is appointed as Secretary to the State Election Commission. For the smooth functioning of the Commission, Government have deputed a Senior Administrative Officer and a Senior Finance Manager both in the rank of Additional Secretary to Government and a Law Officer in the rank of Additional Secretary to the Commission. In addition to them, three Additional Secretaries from Government, one Joint Director each from the Department of Panchayats and Department of Urban Affairs and one Deputy Director from the Public Relations Department have been appointed in the Commission. All these officers are also the Nodal officers who supervise the election/by-election processes in the district assigned to them.

In addition to the above officers, two Section Officers from the Government Secretariat, twelve Assistants, One Data Entry Operator, one Computer Programmer, two Confidential Assistants, five Typists, one Clerical Assistant, eleven Office Attendants, one Watchman, Two Part Time Sweepers and three Drivers are working in the office of the State Election Commission. The details of the officers and staff who have worked in the Commission at the time of General Election are listed under Annexure I.

Also a resource person having sufficient experience in the sphere of election is engaged as Consultant. Moreover, typists, Data Entry Operators are also appointed on Daily Wages or Contract basis for the smooth functioning of the Commission.

STATE ELECTION COMMISSION KERALA
OFFICE STRUCTURE

Chapter - IV

ELECTION OFFICIALS

1. DISTRICT ELECTION OFFICERS

District Collectors have been designated as District Election Officers in all the 14 districts in the State. The District Election Officers co-ordinate and supervise all works in the respective districts or in the area within their jurisdiction in connection with preparation or revision of electoral rolls and the conduct of all elections to Local Self Government Institutions subject to the superintendence, direction and control of the State Election Commission. The Commission provides funds to various officials for meeting election expenditure through the District Election Officers.

2. ASSISTANT DISTRICT ELECTION OFFICERS

The Election Deputy Collectors have been designated as the Assistant District Election Officers for Municipalities and Corporations and the Deputy Director of Panchayats of the districts as the Assistant District Election Officers for Panchayats in their respective districts to assist the District Election Officers in connection with all works of election.

3. ELECTORAL REGISTRATION OFFICERS

As per section 14 of the Kerala Panchayat Raj Act, 1994 and section 72 of the Kerala Municipality Act, 1994, the electoral roll for each constituency or ward, as the case may be, shall be prepared and revised by the Electoral Registration Officers who shall be such officers of Government or of a local

body as the State Election Commission may, in consultation with the Government designate or nominate in this behalf. The Secretaries of the Grama Panchayats and Municipalities are designated as Electoral Registration Officers for the preparation and revision of electoral rolls for all the constituencies comprised in the Grama Panchayats and Municipalities concerned. The Additional Secretaries of the Corporations are designated as the Electoral Registration Officers of the Municipal Corporations. The Electoral Registration Officers shall prepare or revise the electoral roll as per the direction, control and superintendence of the State Election Commission from time to time.

4. ASSISTANT ELECTORAL REGISTRATION OFFICERS

Section 15 of the Kerala Panchayat Raj Act and section 72 of the Kerala Municipality Act provide for the designation of one or more persons as Assistant Electoral Registration Officers to assist the Electoral Registration Officers in the performance for their functions. The Assistant Secretaries/Junior Superintendent /Head Clerk of the Grama Panchayat are designated as Assistant Electoral Registration Officers to assist Electoral Registration Officers. For Municipalities PA to Secretary, Revenue Officer, Municipal Engineer & Superintendent and for Municipal Corporations Deputy Secretary/Revenue Officers, PA to Secretary, Council Secretary, Accounts Officer & Engineers are designated as the Assistant Electoral Registration Officers.

5. RETURNING OFFICERS

The State Election Commission shall, in consultation with the Government, designate or nominate one or more Returning Officer who shall be an Officer of the Government or of a Local Self Government Institution for every panchayat/Municipality for every election to fill a seat or seats in the Panchayat/Municipality. It is the general duty of the Returning Officer to do all such acts and things for conducting the elections as provided by the Act and Rules or Orders made thereunder. In the General Election 2020,

the Commission, as per the Notification Nos from 191/2020/SEC to 194/2020/SEC, dated 20.08.2020 has designated Officers of various departments as Returning Offices of Local Self Government Institutions. The District Collectors have been designated as Returning Officers for District Panchayats. In the Grama Panchayats and Block Panchayats, one officer each has been nominated as Returning Officers. For Municipalities having upto 35 wards, one officer and having more than 35 wards, two officers have been appointed as Returning Officer. In case of Corporation, Thiruvananthapuram has four officers, Kannur has two and other have three each.

6. ASSISTANT RETURNING OFFICERS

The State Election Commission appoints one or more persons as Assistant Returning Officers to assist the Returning Officer in the performance of his function. As per the Notification Nos. from 195/2020/SEC to 200/2020/SEC dated 20.08.2020, the Commission has appointed Assistant Returning Officers for the above purpose.

7. PRESIDING OFFICERS AND POLLING OFFICERS

The District Election Officer shall appoint a Presiding Officer for each polling station for the polling duty in any election to Local Self Government Institutions. It is the general duty of the Presiding officer at a polling station to see that the poll is conducted in free and fair manner. In addition to the Presiding Officer, three Polling Officers and one Polling Assistant were also appointed for each Polling Station to assist Presiding Officers for the smooth conduct of election during General Election 2020. The Polling Assistant, was exclusively engaged for dispensing hand sanitizer to the voters as part of Covid-19 protocol.

8. SPECIAL PRESIDING & POLLING OFFICERS

In the wake of Covid-19 Pandemic, the facility of Postal Ballots was extended to the voters who were infected by Covid-19 and also to the voters

who were on quarantine. Special Presiding & Polling Officers were appointed for facilitating voting by the above voters.

9. ELECTION OBSERVERS

Section 40A of the Kerala Panchayat Raj Act, 1994 and Section 96 A of the Kerala Municipality Act, 1994 provide that the State Election Commission may nominate adequate number of higher officials of Government as Election Observers in consultation with the Government for observing the election of the Panchayat or Municipality. The Election Observers shall assist the Commission to ensure a fair and equitable election and shall discharge such other functions as may be entrusted by the Commission.

During the General Election 2020, the State Election Commission had appointed 14 All India Service Officers (IAS/ IFS) as General Observers for 14 districts. Moreover, 60 officials not below the rank of Deputy Secretary in the Finance Department, General Administration Department and Kerala State Audit Department were appointed as Expenditure Observers for the above purpose. The Observers joined their duty and furnished report to the Commission.

10. SECTORAL OFFICER

Sectoral Officer is an election official who is nominated by the District Election Officer for facilitating basic needs of Polling Officials at Polling Station in connection with the election. Officials not below the rank of Village Officers are nominated as Sectoral Officers. Duties of the Sectoral Officers are to visit a specific number of Polling Booths determined by the Commission on the days on poll day and previous days of poll day. Sectoral Officers provide technical support to the election officials and collect election details including polling percentage from the polling booths.

11. ANTI DEFACEMENT SQUAD

A team of officials under the Leadership of Tahsildar or any other officer in the rank of Tahasildar was appointed as Anti Defacement Squad in each Taluk for examining the election campaign made by the candidates or political parties in connection with the General Election 2020.

12. NATIONAL INFORMATICS CENTRE

National Informatics Centre is an attached office under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India which provides infrastructure to help support the delivery of Government Information Tehnology Services. The State Election Commission had entrusted the NIC, Kerala Circle to provide online facilities for the preparation of electoral roll and all technical support to the Commission for the election activities. Accordingly the NIC had developed software for Electoral Roll Management System for Online enrollment, e-DROP for deployment of staff for polling duties, Poll Manager for updating polling percentage at the real time. TREND for online transmission of election result etc. The NIC rendered the technical support in a highly appreciable manner.

Chapter - V

**PREVIOUS ELECTIONS TO LOCAL SELF
GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS**

1. GENERAL ELECTION 1995

Five General Elections to the Local Self Government Institutions were conducted by the State Election Commission so far since the KPR Act, 1994 and KM Act, 1994 came into force. The first General Election to the Local Self Government Institutions in the State was conducted by the Commission on the 23rd and the 25th of September 1995. General Election to 10720 constituencies of 990 Grama Panchayats, 1543 constitutions of 152 Block Panchayats, 288 constituencies of 14 District Panchayats and 1432 wards of 54 Municipalities and 2 Municipal Corporations were conducted then. The newly elected local bodies based on this election came into force on the 2nd of October 1995.

2. GENERAL ELECTION 2000

The second General Election to the Local Self Government Institutions was conducted in 2000, in three phases. The first phase of election was held on the 25th and 27th of September 2000 in 932 Grama Panchayats (12455 constituencies), 145 Block Panchayats (1469 constituencies), 13 District Panchayats (230 constituencies), 52 Municipalities (1569 wards) and 5 Municipal Corporations (298 Wards). The second phase was held on the

25th of November 2000 in 529 Grama Panchayat Constituencies, 115 Block Panchayat Constituencies and 47 District Panchayat Constituencies. The third phase was conducted on the 29th of January 2001 in 275 Grama Panchayat constituencies (19 Grama Panchayats), 56 Block Panchayats constituencies and 30 District Panchayat constituencies of Malappuram District.

3. GENERAL ELECTION 2005

The third General Election to Local Self Government Institutions was conducted by the Commission on the 24th and 26th of September 2005. General election was held to 16139 constituencies of 999 Grama Panchayats, 2004 constituencies of 152 Block Panchayats, 119 constituencies of 14 District Panchayats, 1726 Wards of 52 Municipalities and 316 Wards of Five Municipal Corporations. The newly elected local bodies came into force on the 2nd of October 2005.

4. GENERAL ELECTION 2010

Before the General Election 2010, there were a total number of 999 Grama Panchayats, 152 Block Panchayats, 14 District Panchayats, 53 Municipalities and 5 Corporations in the State. The Government had then constituted 7 new Municipalities in 2010 by converting or merging Grama Panchayats to existing Municipalities or Municipal Corporations. One Grama Panchayat, namely Edamalakkudy was constituted in Idukki district by converting one ward of Munnar Grama Panchayat. Moreover, almost all local bodies were to be delimited in accordance with the strength fixed by the Government. Accordingly the State Delimitation Commission completed all the works relating to the delimitation of wards of Local bodies before the General Election 2010.

The Fourth General Election to all Local Self Government Institutions, except Mattannur Municipality, was conducted by the Commission on 23rd and 25th October 2010. General Election to Local Self Government Institutions in Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Pathanamthitta, Alappuzha, Kottayam,

Idukki and Thrissur districts was held on 23rd October and in Palakkad, Malapuram, Kozhikkode, Wayanand, Kannur and Kasargod districts on 25th October. Counting of voters in all districts was held on 27th October 2010.

The State Election Commission, thus conducted General Election to 978 Grama Panchayats, 152 Block Panchayats, 14 District Panchayats, 60 Municipalities and 5 Municipal Corporations in the State. The new local bodies pursuant to the General Election came into existence on 1st November 2010.

5. GENERAL ELECTION 2015

Before the General Election 2015, the Government had notified to constitute 69 new Grama Panchayats by bifurcating or taking portions of 135 Grama panchayats, 25 new Municipalities by converting one or more Grama Panchayats and four Municipalities such as Kazhakkootam by bifurcating Thiruvananthapuram Corporation and Elanthoor, Cheruvannur-Nallalam and Beypore by bifurcating Kozhikkode Corporation. In addition to the above, Anthur Municipality from Thaliparamba Municipality had also been constituted.

The Government also constituted Kannur Corporation by adding Pallikkunnu, Puzhathi, Edakkad, Elayavoor and Chelora Grama Panchayats to Kannur Municipality. Moreover, Kondotti Municipality by converting Kondotti and Nediyrippu Grama Panchayats and Feroke Municipality by converting Feroke Grama Panchayat had also been constituted by the Government.

But, the Hon'ble High Court had quashed the constitution of new 69 Grama Panchayats and also the 4 Municipalities constituted by bifurcating existing Corporations while disposing of the Writ Petitions challenging the constitution of the same. But the Hon'ble High Court upheld the constitution of other 5 new municipalities against which writ petitions were filed. No. of local bodies & wards including those newly constituted in 2015 are shown in Table 2.

TABLE 2

No. of Local Bodies and Wards in 2015		
	No. of Local Bodies	No. of Wards
Grama Panchayat	941	15962
Block Panchayat	152	2080
District Panchayat	14	331
Municipality	87	3113
Municipal Corporation	6	414
TOTAL	1,200	21,900

Accordingly, the State Delimitation Commission proceeded with the delimitation of 28 newly constituted Municipalities, Kannur Corporation and the reconstituted Kollam Corporation, Thaliparamba & Nileswarem Municipalities and six Grama Panchayats such as Pallipad, Karthikapally, Chingoli Grama Panchayats in Alapuzha district, Thrikkadeeri, Thenkara Grama panchayats in Palakkad district and Padanna Grama panchayat in Kasargod district. In addition to the above, 30 Block Panchayats and 13 District Panchayats were also delimited in accordance with the strength fixed by the Government. Meanwhile the Government filed and moved stay petition on the judgement of the single Bench of Hon'ble High Court.

The State Election Commission, then had filed a statement before the honourable High Court stating all preceding details and requesting to direct the Government to render all help and assistance to conduct election in a time bound manner. The Division Bench of the Hon'ble High Court, as per order dated 20.08.2015, directed the Government to render necessary help and co-operation to the Commission to conduct timely election and also permitted the Commission to take a decision regarding the 28 Municipalities and 1 Corporation. Since it was not possible to conduct election before 31.10.2015 by taking the newly constituted Municipalities and 1 Corporation, the Government filed petition before the Hon'ble High Court for granting time till 30.11.2015 for completing the election and the Commission also

agreed to the same. However, Hon'ble High Court, as per Order dated 03.09.2015 dismissed the application for extension of time filed by the Government and gave a free hand to the Commission to conduct election on taking its own decision. Thereupon the Commission convened an all party meeting and taking into consideration all circumstances, the Commission issued proceedings No. 552/2015/SEC dated 07.09.2015 declaring conduct of elections to 941 Grama Panchayats, 152 Block Panchayats, 14 District Panchayats, 86 Municipalities and 6 Corporations before 30.11.2015.

Accordingly, Poll in all Grama Panchayats, Block Panchayats, District Panchayats, Municipalities and Municipal Corporations in Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Idukki, Kozhikkode, Wayanad, Kannur and Kasargod were held on 02.11.2015 and that in Pathanamthitta, Kottayam, Alappuzha, Ernakulam, Thrissur, Palakkad and Malappuram districts, except Mattannur Municipality were on 05.11.2015. The counting of votes in all districts was held on 07.11.2015. The newly elected local bodies came in to existence on 12.11.2015.

Table - 3

LOCAL SELF GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS IN KERALA 2020 - AT A GLANCE

Sl. No.	District	GP		BP		DP		Municipality		Corporation	
		No.	Ward	No.	Ward	No.	Ward	No.	Ward	No.	Ward
1.	THIRUVANANTHAPURAM	73	1299	11	155	1	26	4	147	1	100
2.	KOLLAM	68	1234	11	152	1	26	4	131	1	55
3.	PATHANAMTHITTA	53	788	8	106	1	16	4	132	0	00
4.	ALAPPUZHA	72	1169	12	158	1	23	6	215	0	00
5.	KOTTAYAM	71	1140	11	146	1	22	6	204	0	00
6.	IDUKKI	52	792	8	104	1	16	2	69	0	00
7.	ERNAKULAM	82	1338	14	185	1	27	13	421	1	74
8.	THRISSUR	86	1465	16	213	1	29	7	274	1	55
9.	PALAKKAD	88	1490	13	183	1	30	7	240	0	00
10.	MALAPPURAM	94	1778	15	223	1	32	12	479	0	00
11.	KOZHIKKODE	70	1226	12	169	1	27	7	265	1	75
12.	WAYANAD	23	413	4	54	1	16	3	99	0	00
13.	KANNUR	71	1166	11	149	1	24	9	324	1	55
14.	KASARGOD	38	664	6	83	1	17	3	113	0	00
TOTAL		941	15962	152	2080	14	331	87	3113	6	414

Chapter - VI

GENERAL ELECTION 2020

Article 243 E and 243 U of the Constitution of India mandate that the election to constitute a Panchayat/Municipality shall be completed before the expiry of its duration. The term of the existing Panchayats at all levels and Municipality and Municipal Corporations except Mattannur Municipality expired on 11.11.2020. As per the above Constitutional provisions the General Election to Panchayats and Municipalities would have been conducted before the expiry of the duration ie 11.11.2020.

As the State Election Commission is conscious of the mandate of the Constitution that it is incumbent on the part of Commission to conduct election to Local Self Government Institutions before the expiry of duration, preparatory works like revision of electoral roll, setting up of polling stations, appointment of Returning Officers and Assistant Returning Officers, Printing of Hand books, forms and Registers etc, Procurement of election materials etc. had been initiated sufficiently early.

1. MEETING WITH THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH SERVICES

The Out break Covid-19 Pandemic in the State in March 2020 coupled with the lockdown declared by the Central/State Governments temporarily crippled to preparatory works of the General Election 2020. Considering the Constitutional responsibility, the Commission decided to go ahead with the preparatory works inspite of the lockdown restrictions.

The Commission chalked out a plan to conduct the election without much delay with necessary safe guards for preventing the spread of the Pandemic. The Commission accordingly held meeting with the Director of Health Services of the State on 17.08.2020 regarding the conduct of election without escalating the spread of the Pandemic. The Director of Health Service



A meeting with Director of Health & Family Welfare.

responded positively for the conduct of election but cautioned to strictly adhere to the Covid protocol in force. The Director also informed that in order to comply the "Break the Chain" campaign effectively, an intensive awareness programmes had to be arranged to the candidates, representatives of political parties, election officials, voters etc. The Director also informed that the Health Department would render all necessary assistance for the conduct of the awareness programmes. After considering the suggestions made by the Department of Health, the Commission prepared a draft guidelines of the instructions to be followed by the candidates, political parties, voters, election officials etc. during the of elections in the situation of Covid-19 Pandemic.

2 MEETING WITH POLITICAL PARTIES

The Commission had convened an all party meeting on 18.09.2020 at the Mascot Hotel, Thiruvananthapuram to discuss the matter of conduct of

local body General Election in 2020, especially in the Covid-19 Pandemic situation.

The draft guidelines prepared by the Commission in consultation with Health authorities was also discussed in the meeting. In the all party meeting majority of the Political Parties requested the Commission to postpone the election to Local Bodies for a short period of time in view of the Covid-19 pandemic situation in the State, but not for an indefinite period. They also agreed to implement the draft guidelines prepared by the Commission for the conduct of General Election adhering to Covid protocol.

Though the Commission had chalked out plans for the completion of election before the expiration of the duration of five years period stipulated in the Constitution, the Covid-19 pandemic turned the plans upside down. However, taking note of extraordinary situation and exceptional circumstances that existed in the State due to Covid-19 pandemic and the request made by the Government & the Political parties, the Commission decided to defer the appointment of dates for nominations, etc. to a date after 11.11.2020.



A Meeting with the representatives of Political Parties

Accordingly the State Election Commission in exercise of its powers under Article 243 K of the Constitution of India and all other enabling provisions in this regard and on detailed consideration of the factual situation and for the Constitutional mandate under Article 243 E and 243 U, had decided to hold elections to all Municipal Corporations, Municipalities and Panchayats at all levels in the State of Kerala (except Mattannur) in a manner to complete the entire election process to all these constituencies at the earliest, at any rate, before 31.12.2020.

3. MEETING WITH THE STATE POLICE CHIEF

In connection with the conduct of General Election the Commission had convened a meeting with the State Police Chief on 02/11/2020 to discuss the matter regarding deployment of police for maintaining law and order situation during election period. In the meeting Sri.Loknath Behra IPS, the State Police Chief had assured that all assistance from the force would be provided for the smooth, fair and peaceful election. He also informed that necessary arrangements had already been initiated by the Police in this regard. The Police Chief also expressed his opinion that if polling across the State was arranged in three phases in view of Covid-19 Pandemic, deployment of police for election duty could be made more effective.



Meeting with State Police Chief

4. MEETING WITH CHIEF SECRETARY OF KERALA

The Chief Secretary of Kerala as per letter dated 11.09.2020 informed that the all party meeting convened by the Government of Kerala on 11.09.2020 considered the issue of holding elections to Local Self government Institutions and it was conveyed that a slight postponement can be considered in view of increasing incidence of Covid 19 Pandemic.

The Commission had also made an interaction with the Chief Secretary of Kerala on 04.11.2020, at Mascot Hotel, Thiruvananthapuram regarding conduct of General Election. The Commissioner then informed the Chief Secretary that in compliance with the Constitutional mandate under Article 243E and 243U, the Commission had decided to hold election to all Local Bodies in a manner to complete the entire election process at the earliest before 31.12.2020. The Commissioner added that all preparations for the timely completion of election had already been taken by the Commission. Dr. Vishwas Mehta, IAS, Chief Secretary of Kerala offered all support from the Government for conducting General Election as decided by the State Election Commission. He also assured that in the situation of covid 19 Pandemic, Covid-19 preventive gears like PPE Kit, face shield etc. could be provided by the Health Department to the officials engaged on election duties, Covid positive voters and those in quarantine. Sri.Loknath Behra IPS, State Police Chief; Smt.Saradha Muraleedharan IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, LSGD; Dr.Jayathilak IAS, Principal Secretary, Revenue & Disaster Management; Dr.Rajan.N.Khobragade IAS, Principal Secretary Health & Family Welfare Department; Sri. Sanjay.M.Kaul IAS, Secretary, Home Department ; Smt.Joshi Mrunmai Shashank IAS, Staff Officer to Chief Secretary; Sri.Manoj Abraham IPS, ADGP; Smt.Merin Joseph IPS also attended the meeting. The above officials also consented to provide all services needed for the smooth conduct of free and fair elections.



Meeting with the Chief Secretary of Kerala.

5. MEETING WITH KSEB, KWA, FIRE & RESCUE AND TRANSPORT

The Commission also convened a meeting with the officials of KSEB, KWA, FIRE & RESCUE and TRANSPORT on 01.12.2020 at the Committee Room of the Commission to discuss election related matters. The officials participated in the meeting assured all assistance for the smooth conduct of election.

On consideration of the factual situation in the state in the wake of the Covid-19 Pandemic and in compliance with the Constitutional mandate, the State Election Commission had decided to conduct General Election to all local bodies by taking all precautionary steps to prevent the spread of Covid-19 virus. As part of it, the Commission decided to provide protection equipments like Mask, Sanitizer, Gloves, Face shield, PPE Kits etc to the election officials and others. A detailed guidelines regarding the precautionary steps to be taken by the officials, candidates, political parties, voters etc in order to prevent the spread of Covid-19 virus during the electioneering had been issued by the Commission. Copy of the Order No. B1-33870-2020-SEC dated 16.10.2020 is shown as Annexure 3.

Accordingly the Commission had scheduled programme on General Election to 941 Grama Panchayats, 152 Block Panchayats, 14 District Panchayats, 6 Municipal Corporation and 86 Municipalities in all district in three phases: on 8th, 10th and 14th December 2020.

6. MEETING WITH DISTRICT ELECTION OFFICERS & DISTRICT COLLECTORS

The Commission had arranged a meeting of District Election Officers & District Collectors on 04.11.2020 through Video Conference to evaluate the progress of the preparedness for the election activities in each districts. The District election Officers reported the progress of the activities like preparation of electoral roll, appointment of Returning Officers, setting up of polling stations, determination of reservations, training to officials, first level checking of EVM, arrangements in the Distributions & Reception Centre, deployment of polling officials, distribution of polling materials, election notifications, meeting of political parties at district level, election campaign, Model Code of Conduct, election fund, ban on liquor etc. The Commissioner directed the District Collectors to closely monitor all election related activities and to submit the election plan of each district to the Commission.



An expert from Health Department gives online training to Master Trainers regarding Covid-19 Protocol.

7. MEETING WITH DEPARTMENT OF POSTS

The Commission had taken a meeting with the officers of Department of Posts. After detailed discussion an agreement was executed with them for the safe and timely distribution of Postal Ballots.



Meeting with Director of Panchayat, Director of Urban Affairs and Commissioner of Rural Development.

8. ELECTION PETITIONS

There were some petitions before the Commission regarding the postponement of election in the wake of Covid 19 Pandemic. The Commission examined such petitions and disposed of them on the ground that the State Election Commission was not in a position to postpone the General Election to local bodies for an indefinite period of time due to the Constitutional mandate of the Commission to conduct election to local bodies before the expiry of duration.

But, after considering the situation of Covid 19 Pandemic and the suggestions raised in the meeting with the representatives of political parties held on 18.09.2020, the Commission decided to conduct all elections to local bodies in a manner to complete all election process before 31.12.2020.

Meanwhile, Shri.P.C. George MLA, a petitioner, also filed a WP (C) 23341 of 2020 (S) before the Hon: High Court for directing the State Election Commission not to conduct election to local bodies in Kerala till the Covid 19 Pandemic is completely under control and to declare that the initiation of election process by the Commission is legally incorrect. The Commission, in this regard, filed a Counter Affidavit stating the Constitutional mandates of the Commission to conduct election local bodies in time bound manner and the preparations already taken by the Commission. Accepting the contentions of the Commission, the Hon'ble High Court dismissed the petition.

The petitioner filed a Special Leave Petition before the Hon: Supreme Court of India against the order of the High Court. The Supreme Court Bench headed by Justice L Nageswara Rao heard the matter and refused to entertain the petition seeking the postponement of local body polls in the state. In this case the Apex court has held that "We are of the view that the Constitution of India is Supreme, and every decision of an authority under any Act, in the case on hand, the State Election Commission should be, in accordance with the Constitutional mandate".



Sri. Arif Mohammad Khan, Honourable Governor of Kerala, honouring the State Election Commissioner with Ponnada for the succesful completion of Local Body Election 2020.

Chapter - VII

ELECTORAL ROLL OF LOCAL BODIES 2020

1. REVISION OF ELECTORAL ROLL

The elections to all Local Self Government Institutions in Kerala are being conducted on ward/constituency wise. Hence, the State Election Commission has to have an electoral roll prepared on ward/constituency wise for Local Body Election. Before the General Election 2015, the State Election Commission had decided to prepare its own database of electoral roll for the use of all elections to Local Bodies in future. As such the State Election Commission adopted the Assembly boothwise electoral roll prepared by Election Commission of India and used in the Parliament election 2014 as base roll for the purpose. As the electoral roll of Election Commission of India was prepared on assembly booth wise, it would not be possible for the State Election Commission to use the same as such in the General Election to Local Bodies. Hence, the Commission deployed around 21,500 House Verification Officers to undertake the work of segregating the assembly booth wise electoral roll into local body wardwise after conducting field verification in respect of all voters in the Assembly Electoral Roll. After a massive exercise the State Election Commission prepared an electoral roll of its own on local body wardwise. The electoral roll so prepared was used for the General Election 2015 and for the bye-elections conducted subsequently by updating the same.

As decided earlier, the State Election Commission, as per the Order No. B1.30139-2019-SEC dated 04.01.2020, had issued directions to the Electoral Registration Officers of Panchayats and Municipalities to revise the existing electoral roll used in the General Election 2015 and the updated rolls used in the by-elections subsequently conducted, for the use of the General Election 2020. As such the Electoral Registration Officers published draft electoral roll on 20.01.2020 inviting claims (applications for name inclusion) or objections on the draft. The draft Electoral Rolls aggregated 2,51,58,230 voters of which 1,20,82,390 were male, 1,30,75,725 female and 115 transgenders. The last date scheduled for receiving claims and objections was 14.02.2020. The Commission had also decided to publish the final Electoral Roll on 28.02.2020 after examining all claims and objections received by the Electoral Registration Officers.

Meanwhile, Shri. SooppyNarikkatteri and another filed a Writ petition as WP (C) No. 815/2020 (B) before the Hon: High Court against the decision of the Commission to publish the existing electoral rolls of the local bodies as draft for the purpose of General Election 2020. The petitioners also sought for a direction to State Election Commission to prepare the electoral roll for local body election 2020 keeping the electoral roll of Lok Sabha election 2019 as drafts and final roll. In addition to the above, three more Writ Petitions of similar nature were also filed before the High Court. The Single Bench of the Hon: High Court in Judgment dated 03/02/2020 dismissed the petitions on merit. As against that the petitioners filed Writ Appeal before the Division Bench of the Hon: High Court as WA238/2020. In the Writ Appeal the Hon'ble High Court reversed the judgement of the single judge and set aside the decision of the Commission to update the existing electoral roll prepared on wardwise.

Aggrieved by the decision of the High Court in the Writ Appeal .238/2020, the Commission filed Special Leave Petition No (s) 4979- 4981/2020 before the Hon: Supreme Court of India. The Special Leave Petition came

up for hearing on 06.03.2020 and Hon: Supreme Court stayed the operation of the Order of the Division Bench of High Court.

The Commission, thereafter resumed the electoral roll revision process and as per the Order No. B1.30139-2019-SEC dated 07.03.2020 the Commission revised the schedule for publishing final electoral roll on 25.03.2020. As such more time was provided to the voters for submitting claims and objections to the draft published on 20.01.2020, ie a further period of nine days from 08.03.2020 to 16.03.2020 in addition to the opportunity already provided. During this period an additional number of 6,10,310 online applications were also received for name inclusion.

Further, in view of the restrictions imposed by Government to avoid the transmission of Covid 19 virus, the Commission as per the Order No. B1/30139/19 dated 21.03.2020 extended the dates for publishing final rolls to 03.04.2020 in Kasargod district and to 27.03.2020 in other districts. Since the Government declared lockdown for the containment of Covid 19, the Commission had stopped the process of revision of electoral roll until further orders, on 28.03.2020.

Subsequently in the light of the relaxation made by the Government from the lockdown restrictions, the Commission, as per the Order No. B1/30139/2019 dated 08.06.2020 has decided to publish the final Electoral Rolls of Panchayats and Municipalities on 17.06.2020 after considering all applications. Thus, the Electoral Registration Officers published final electoral rolls on 17.06.2020 by including 14,79,541 new voters and excluding 4,13,270 deceased or ineligible voters. The final Electoral Rolls, so published aggregated 2,62,24,501 voters, of which 1,25,40,302 are male, 1,36,84,019 female and 180 transgenders.

The Commission, as per Order No. B1-30139/2019/SEC, dated 04.08.2020 had again published the aforesaid electoral rolls on 12.08.2020 as draft in the second phase of revision of electoral rolls. During the revision a period of 15 days was given to the voters for filing claims and objections, if

any on the draft. As such, after considering all claims and objections the final rolls was published on 01.10.2020, having a total number of 27120823 electors of which, 1,29,25766 are male, 14194775 are female and 282 are transgenders.

In the Covid-19 Pandemic situation, the Commission had relaxed the procedure of personal hearing by allowing the same through mobile phone, video call, whatsapp webcam etc. Considering the safety concerns of the voters as well as election officials. In the 3rd phase of revision of electoral rolls the Commission again provided facilities to voters to file claims and objections for a period from 27.10.2020 to 31.10.2020 for updation of the electoral roll. As such the final rolls including supplementary lists were published on 10.11.2020 for the use of the General Election 2020. The State Election Commission had provided facility for enrollment of transgender voters in the electoral roll in connection with the General Election 2020 also. The final electoral roll used for the General Election 2020 had a total number of 2,76,56,910 voters of which 1,31,72,755 are male, 1,44,83,915 female and 240 transgenders. The district wise break up of the same is shown below in table-4.



Female voters wearing mask in front of a Polling Station.

Table - 4

Districtwise Voters in Kerala 2020

DISTRICT	Total voters			Total
	Male	Female	Transgender	
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM	1330516	1507566	23	2838105
KOLLAM	1041520	1181231	19	2222770
PATHANAMTHITTA	502738	575858	03	1078599
ALAPPUZHA	838988	943588	11	1782587
KOTTAYAM	780559	833030	10	1613599
IDUKKI	444633	460024	05	904662
ERNAKULAM	1254021	1335109	34	2589164
THRISSUR	1267184	1424165	23	2691372
PALAKKAD	1120812	1216519	20	2337351
MALAPPURAM	1629178	1725482	46	3354706
KOZHIKODE	1208553	1324458	24	2533035
WAYANAD	305915	319534	06	625455
KANNUR	946123	1090806	10	2036939
KASARAGOD	502015	546545	06	1048566
TOTAL	13172755	14483915	240	27656910

2. PRAVASI VOTE

Section 21 A of the Kerala Panchayat Raj Act, 1994 and section 77 A of the Kerala Municipality Act, 1994 provide that the Non -Resident Indians have the right to enroll their names in the electoral roll of the ward/constituency of the local body with respect to their residential address shown in their passports. In the light of the above provisions and Rule 3 of the Kerala Panchayat Raj (Registration of Electors) Rules, 1994, and the Kerala Municipality (Registration of Election) Rules, 1994 the Commission had decided to prepare a separate electoral roll for the NRIs in connection with

the General Election 2020.

In order to enroll the names in the electoral roll, the NRI who resides outside India had to submit their online application in the website www.lsgelection.kerala.gov.in and forward a signed printout of the application along with the copy of the passport to the Electoral Registration Officers concerned. The Electoral Registration Officers thereafter take appropriate decision in the matter.

During the General Election 2020, there were 2162 number of pravasi voters got enrolled in the electoral roll. The districtwise break-up is shown in Table 5 below.

Table - 5

Pravasi Voters

District	Male	Female	Total
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM	41	03	44
KOLLAM	11	02	13
PATHANAMTHITTA	35	13	48
ALAPPUZHA	31	06	37
KOTTAYAM	20	08	28
IDUKKI	05	03	08
ERNAKULAM	46	12	58
THRISSUR	91	23	114
PALAKKAD	46	13	59
MALAPPURAM	285	36	321
KOZHIKODE	995	70	1065
WAYANAD	06	-	06
KANNUR	255	27	282
KASARAGOD	75	04	79
TOTAL	1942	220	2162

3. ONLINE ENROLMENT

The State Election Commission had introduced the online facility to the voters for the enrolment, corrections and transpositions in the voters list in connection with the General Election 2015. This facility was also provided in 2020 also. In this regard the State Election Commission with the help of the National Informatics Centre had developed an online website (www.lselection.kerala.gov.in).

In the name inclusion link, all data including photo have to be entered by applicants to include their names. On uploading the application online the applicant will get a print out of the hearing notice mentioning date, time & place of hearing. The same process has to be followed for correction and transposition applications. The applicant has to appear before the Electoral Registration Officer on the hearing date and affix his signature on the application and the Electoral Registration Officer will verify the online application and take appropriate decision.

This site also provided options such as "Search Voter" (to find out the details of the voter in the electoral roll), "View Voters List" (to view the voters list of a particular polling station), "Status option" (to ascertain the status of an application filed) to the public. This online facility was very effective especially in the pandemic situation.



Tribal women show their fingers after casting vote.

Chapter - VIII

VARIOUS ELECTION ACTIVITIES

1. TRAINING PROGRAMME

The State Election Commission had given an extensive training programme to the Returning Officers, Assistant Returning Officers, Electoral Registration Officers, Assistant Electoral Registration Officers and polling officials from July 2019 onwards. As part of it, State level Master Trainers and District level Master Trainers were appointed by the Commission to impart proper training to the officials. During the General Election 2020, the Commission arranged training programs to various officials in three phases.

In the 1st phase of training, 72 District level Master Trainers were trained by the Commission from 24th to 27th September 2019 at Maria Rani Training Centre, Sreekariyam regarding the preparation of electoral rolls. Thereafter the District level Master Trainers conducted training programmes on revision of electoral rolls to the Electoral Registration Officers and Assistant Electoral Registration Officers of all Grama Panchayats, Municipalities and Municipal Corporations during January 2020.

In the 2nd phase of training programme, ie, training on conduct of election the Commission conducted training programme to the District Level Master Trainers through Video Conference during September 2020 in the wake of the Covid-19 Pandemic. The District level Master trainers had arranged training to the Returning Officers and Assistant Returning Officers of all local bodies at the district level. Around 70,000 polling officials like

Presiding Officers and 1st polling officer were trained during the month of October 2020 regarding the procedure of polling. In this regard Block level trainers were appointed by the District Election officers for facilitating proper training.



Training of Master Trainers at Maria Rani Centre.

2. SETTING UP OF POLLING STATIONS

As part of the General Election to Local Self Government Institutions in 2020, with a view to provide basic amenities in the polling stations, the Commission had decided to rearrange, if needed, the existing polling stations. Therefore, the Commission instructed the Secretaries of all local bodies to inspect the existing polling stations in their jurisdiction and to submit detailed report to the District Election Officer concerned. On the basis of the reports, the District Election Officers submitted detailed proposals to the Commission for making necessary changes in the existing polling stations and new polling stations to be set up. The State Election Commission, after examining the proposals, decided to setup one polling station for a

maximum number of 1,300 voters in a Grama Panchayat ward and 1,600 voters in a Municipality/Municipal Corporation ward. As such a total number of 34710 (excluding Mattannur Municipality) polling stations were setup for the purpose of General Election 2020. The district wise break up of polling stations are shown in Table 6.

TABLE 6
No. of Polling Stations 2020

Sl. No	District	Urban			Rural (Panchayats)	Grand Total (Urban + Rural)
		Corporation	Municipality	Total		
1	Thiruvananthapuram	653	161	814	2467	3281
2	Kollam	265	134	399	2362	2761
3	Pathanamthitta		133	133	1326	1459
4	Alappuzha		282	282	1989	2271
5	Kottayam		253	253	2079	2332
6	Idukki		69	69	1384	1453
7	Ernakulam	327	439	766	2366	3132
8	Thrissur	211	296	507	2824	3331
9	Palakkad		293	293	2707	3000
10	Malappuram		516	516	3459	3975
11	Kozhikode	398	280	678	2309	2987
12	Wayanad		99	99	749	848
13	Kannur (except Mattannur 35 wards)	147	310	457	2014	2471
14	Kasargod		122	122	1287	1409
Grand Total		2001	3387	5388	29322	34710



Aged voters taking rest inside the polling station after casting their votes.

3. DISTRIBUTION, RECEPTION AND COUNTING CENTRES

In connection with the General Election 2020, State Election Commission had arranged Distribution, Reception and Counting centres at Block Level for three tier Panchayat Raj Institutions and at Municipality or Corporation level for urban local bodies. The distribution of polling materials and their reception after the poll and the counting of votes relating to the polling stations in respect of all constituencies of Grama Panchayat, Block Panchayat and District Panchayats coming within the area of a Block Panchayat, were done at a single centre arranged at the Block Level. There were 152 Distribution and Counting centres at Block Panchayat Level and 92 centres at Municipality/Municipal Corporations Level and they were meticulously arranged by the Commission in the General Election 2020. The district wise break-up are shown in Table 7.

Table - 7

Districtwise Distribution & Counting Centre

District	Rural	Urban	Total
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM	11	05	16
KOLLAM	11	05	16
PATHANAMTHITTA	08	04	12
ALAPPUZHA	12	06	18
KOTTAYAM	11	06	17
IDUKKI	08	02	10
ERNAKULAM	14	14	28
THRISSUR	16	08	24
PALAKKAD	13	07	20
MALAPPURAM	15	12	27
KOZHIKODE	12	08	20
WAYANAD	04	03	07
KANNUR	11	09	20
KASARGOD	06	03	09
TOTAL	152	92	244



An official dispensing sanitizer to a voter before voting.

4. RECOGNIZED POLITICAL PARTIES AND SYMBOLS

The Election Commission of India had recognized the following political parties as National parties and State parties in Kerala.

1. Bahujan Samaj Party	-	National Party
2. Bharatiya Janata Party	-	National Party
3. Communist Party of India	-	National Party
4. Communist Party of India (Marxist)	-	National Party
5. Indian National Congress	-	National Party
6. Nationalist Congress Party	-	National Party
7. All India Trinamool Congress	-	National Party
8. Indian Union Muslim League	-	State party
9. Janata Dal (Secular)	-	State party
10. Kerala Congress (M)	-	State party
11. Revolutionary Socialist Party	-	State party

Hence, the State Election Commission had allotted same election symbols to the above National and State Parties which were allotted to them by the Election Commission of India. In addition to the above, 28 other political parties (State Parties of other States and Union Territories and Registered Unrecognised Parties) had been allotted symbols for their candidates in the General Election 2020 as requested by them. Moreover, 75 free symbols were also approved by the Commission for the independent candidates. List of registered political parties and their symbols are listed in Annexure 4.

5. RESERVATION FOR SC, ST AND WOMEN

Prior to the General Election 2020, the Government notified the total number of wards to be filled up by direct election in a Municipality and Municipal Corporation and also the seats to be reserved for Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and Woman. Similarly, the Director of Panchayats on behalf of the Government had notified the total number of constituencies to be filled

up in the Panchayats and the number of seats to be reserved for SC, ST and Women. As per Section 10 (2B) of the Kerala Panchayat Raj Act, 1994 and Section 69 of the Kerala Municipality Act, 1994, the State Election Commission had appointed District Election Officers and Regional Joint Directors of Urban Affairs Department to determine the constituencies and wards to be reserved for Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and Woman according to rotation. The total number of seats reserved in the state in this regards for the purpose of the General Election 2020 is shown in Table 8.

The Government also notified the number of offices of the Presidents of three tier Panchayat Raj Institutions, Chairman of Municipalities and Mayors of Municipal Corporations to be reserved for Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and Women. Accordingly, the Commission, had reserved the Officers of the Presidents/Chair Persons of Grama Panchayats, Block Panchayats, District Panchayats and Municipalities and Municipal Corporations for the Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe, Women prior to the General Election 2020. The total number of seats reserved in this regards is shown in Table 9.

Table - 8

Reservation of Wards for SC, ST and Women

LSGI	Total Wards	SC			ST			Woman Gen	Total Wom
		Wom	Gen	Tot	Wom	Gen	Tot		
Grama Panchayat	15962	748	966	1714	103	139	242	7409	8260
Block Panchayat	2080	75	146	221	11	20	31	1015	1101
District Panchayat	331	16	16	32	02	04	06	150	168
Municipality	3113	117	110	227	07	08	15	1454	1578
Corporation	414	15	12	27	00	00	00	194	209
Total	21900	971	1250	2221	123	171	294	10222	11316

Table - 9

Reservation Seats for President, Chairman & Mayor

LSGI	Total LBS	SC			ST			Woman	
		Wom	Gen	Total	Wom	Gen	Tot	Gen	Wom
Grama Panchayat	941	46	46	92	08	08	16	417	471
Block Panchayat	152	08	07	15	02	01	03	67	77
District panchayat	14	00	01	01	00	00	00	07	07
Municipality	87	03	03	06	00	01	01	41	44
Corporation	06	00	00	00	00	00	00	03	03
Total	1200	57	57	114	10	10	20	535	602

6. ELECTRONIC VOTING MACHINE (EVM)

The Commission used Electronic Voting Machines in the elections to three tier Panchayat Raj Institutions, Municipalities and Municipal Corporations. In this regard the Commission had already procured a total no. of 37551 Multi Post Electronic Machines for the use in the local body election. As it was not sufficient to conduct election to three tier Panchayat Raj Institutions and Urban local bodies the Commission had already taken necessary steps to procure 8000 additional machines for attaining self-sufficiency during the General Election. But the same could not be procured prior to the election, owing to factors like lack of timely allocation of funds, restrictions imposed by Election Commission of India and the scale down of production of Electronic Voting Machines by the vendor due to pandemic situation etc. Therefore the Commission had borrowed 13,500 Single Post Electronic Voting Machines from the Election Commission of India for deploying the same in urban area. Multi Post Electronic Voting Machine has a Control Unit and three Ballot Units. For the election to three tier Panchayat Raj Institutions, atleast three Ballot Units along with a Control Unit are required for each polling station. One Ballot Unit is for Grama Panchayat, one for Block Panchayat and one for District Panchayat. In each Ballot Unit, 15 candidates can be accommodated. At any level, if the number

of candidates is more than 15, an additional Ballot Unit can also be added to the Control Unit. In the Ballot Unit, there is a facility of END button. If a voter wishes to cast no vote or desires to cast vote for one or two levels only, he can complete the voting procedure by the pressing END button at the third unit. The Multi Post EVMs have a Detachable Memory Module (DMM) which contains the details of the polled votes as the internal memory and this alone need be kept in the safe custody.

The Commission had not provided 'NOTA' facility in the EVM, since the Kerala Panchayat Raj Act and Kerala Municipality Act do not provide space in this regard.

For the use of the General Election candidate setting was conducted in each machine on the days prior to the distribution day under the supervision of the Returning Officers concerned. After commissioning the machine they were kept in the strong room of the Distribution Centre under the control of Returning Officers.

7. WEB CASTING AT SENSITIVE POLLING STATIONS

The State Election Commission, had decided to arrange web casting at the most sensitive polling stations in General Election 2020. In this regard, the State Police Chief had reported to the Commission that there were a total number of 1800 polling stations all over Kerala, either sensitive or vulnerable.

The Commission has arranged webcasting through Keltron who acted as the total solution provider. BSNL & IT Mission partnered with them. State level viewing/monitoring was set up at the Head Quarters of State Election Commission apart from district level centers at district head quarters of District Election Officers and District Police Chief & DGP.

Based on technical feasibility web-casting was arranged in 1619 sensitive polling stations across the State. In other sensitive polling stations, videography was arranged through the District Election Officers. The districtwise details of the pollings stations where Web Casting was arranged are shown in Table No. 10.

Table - 10

NO OF POLLING STATIONS UNDER WEB CASTING

Sl. No	Name of District	No. of Polling Booths recommended by ADGP	No. of Polling Booths where Web Casting is arranged
1.	THIRUVANANTHAPURAM	181	176
2.	KOLLAM	35	35
3.	PATHANAMTHITTA	5	5
4.	ALAPPUZHA	40	40
5.	KOTTAYAM	30	17
6.	IDUKKI	12	10
7.	ERNAKULAM	61	44
8.	TRISSUR	54	45
9.	PALAKKAD	132	89
10.	MALAPPURAM	100	56
11.	KOZHIKKOD	120	91
12.	WAYANAD	152	69
13.	KANNUR	875	881
14.	KASARGOD	100	67
	TOTAL	1800	1619



A meeting with the officials of NIC, KELTRON, BSNL, IT Mission.

8. PROCUREMENT OF ELECTION MATERIALS

In connection with the General Election 2020, the election materials, stationery items etc were procured by the Commission by means of centralised purchase system. The Commission had entrusted the Department of Stationery for the purchase and distribution of stationery items and other materials. The required quantity of each item was assessed from the data of previous elections. The Stationery Department procured and supplied the stationery items and other election materials to the District Election Officers. The District Election Officers distributed the same to the officials, who were in charge of distribution duty.

9. PRINTING OF FORMS, HAND BOOKS, POSTAL BALLOTS ETC

Printing of various forms, Hand Books, Registers etc.required for the conduct of General Election was carried out through the Department of Printing and Gramalekshmi Mudralayam an unit under the control of Local Self Government Department. Similarly, postal ballots for election officials and special voters, ballot labels for EVM were printed out by the Department of Printing. The number of postal ballots to be printed was assessed on the basis of the requests made by the Returning officers concerned. The colour of printed postal ballots and ballot labels for Grama Panchayats, Municipalities and Corporation is white and that of Block Panchayat and District Panchayat are Pink and sky blue respectively.

10. COVID - 19 PROTECTION EQUIPMENTS

In view of the Covid 19 Pandemic, the Commission had decided to provide the Covid 19 protective equipments like, N95 mask, gloves, sanitizer, face shield, PPE kits etc.to the officials engaged in election duties in order to prevent the spread of virus during the election process. As such the Commission had entrusted Kerala Medical Services Corporation Ltd, an organization under the control of the Department of Health and Family Welfare, for supplying the above protective equipments at reasonable rates

in a time bound manner. Accordingly the Kerala Medical Services Corporation Ltd supplied the items to the District Election Officers as requested by the Commission.



Election officials and voters with Covid-19 protective equipments.

11. eDROP

The State Election Commission, Kerala had initiated steps to appoint officials for election duties in connection with the General Election 2020 with the assistance of the National Informatics Centre (NIC). The NIC had developed e-Drop software (Electronically Deploying Randomly Officers for polling) in this regard. Additional District Magistrates in all districts were designated as the Nodal Officers at district level for the purpose.

The Commission had also taken a decision that a Presiding Officer not below the rank of Assistant Section Officer/Superintendent and three Polling Officers in the rank of Junior Superintendent, Head Clerk and Clerk should be appointed in each polling station. In addition to the above, one official in the rank of Office Attendant was also appointed in a polling station

to dispense the hand sanitizer to the voters at the polling station.

The Secretaries of Grama Panchayats, Municipalities and Municipal Corporation were directed to collect the Government /Semi Government staff details /institution details coming within the area of each local body and to enter the same in the software. After completing the entries, the process of randomization and generation of posting orders were carried out by the District Nodal Officers. The Secretaries of local bodies had to download and to serve the posting orders to the officials concerned at the stipulated time.

In the wake of Covid-19 pandemic, the officials appointed for polling duties were also provided the facility to download their posting orders themselves. Moreover SMS facility was also provided to the Polling Officials about the Polling Stations at which each one was posted for polling duties.

12. POLL MANAGER, MOBILE APPLICATION

The State Election Commission, Kerala had implemented "Poll Manager" Mobile Application, developed by National Informatics Centre (NIC), in the General Election 2020 to Local Self Government Institutions. "Poll Manager" Mobile Application was intended to facilitate Returning Officers, District Election Officers, State Election Commission to interact with Polling Officials during the Poll day & the day before the Polling (2 days) and to ensure effective communication regarding statutory requirement such as conduct of mock poll before commencement of actual poll, end of the Poll, voting percentage at periodic intervals etc. The Sectoral Officer, Presiding Officer & First Polling Officer or other officials authorized by District Election Officers & State Election Commission could also be brought under this loop.

For the effective implementation of the "Poll Manager" Mobile application, the Commission had designated officials as Nodal Officers at State level and District levels. In this regard proper training was given to the Sectoral Officers, Presiding Officers and 1st Polling Officers of each polling

state by the District Level Master Trainers and Block Level Master Trainers. The APP was found to be successful through its introduction in the General Election 2020.



A view of Poll Manager App, showing Polling Percentage.

13. SPECIAL POSTAL BALLOT PAPERS FOR COVID-19 ACTIVE POSITIVE ELECTORS AND ELECTORS IN QUARANTINE

In view of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Kerala Municipality Act 1994 and the Kerala Panchayat Raj Act, 1994 were amended to give postal ballot facility to the voters who are affected by epidemic disease or in quarantine. Accordingly, the State Election Commission had provided the facility of Special Postal ballots to the Special voters who were Covid-19 positive or in Quarantine during the period of General Election 2020.

The Health and Family Welfare Department had nominated the District Medical Officer as Designated Health Officer (DHO) to prepare a certified list of special voters who are Covid-19 positive or in Quarantine on the

determined days i.e. 10 days before the date of poll. The Designated Health Officer had prepared the CL on each day and forwarded the same to the District Election Officer concerned for further action. The District Election Officer in turn forwarded the same to the Returning Officers concerned for issuing postal ballots to voters who are Covid-19 positive or in quarantine.

The Special voters included in the certified list up to 3pm on the day prior to the poll day were eligible to get the Special postal ballots. Special voters had the right to apply for Special postal ballots directly from the Returning Officers concerned. The Special voters in the Certified list after 3pm on the previous day of the poll day, till the end of poll were allowed to cast their voters at the Polling Station directly in the last hours of poll with appropriate protective equipments like PPE Kits etc.

Poll time was extended by one hour i.e., from 7am to 6pm.



A Special voter of Covid-19 positive wearing PPE Kit casts his vote at Polling Station.

The District Election Officers appointed one or more special polling teams to each local body (one special polling officer, one special polling assistant, one police officer and a vehicle with driver) for the purpose of

distribution of Special postal ballots directly to the Special voters at his residential address. The special polling team were also to collect the polled postal ballots from the Special voters, if necessary, and to deliver the same to Returning Officers concerned on the same day itself.

The Returning Officer after assessing the total number of required Special Postal Ballots made arrangements for delivery and collection of Postal ballots to the Special voters appearing in the CL. The Special polling team visited the electors at the address mentioned in CL for delivery, facilitating their voting by postal ballot paper and collection of the polled postal ballots. The Special polling officers and other officials were authorised to attest the declaration form. The guidelines issued by the Commission in this regard is shown as Annexure 4



Dr. Navjot Khosa, District Collector of Thiruvananthapuram distributes Polling Materials and PPE Kit to Special Polling team.

14. PUBLICITY ACTIVITIES & AWARENESS PROGRAMME

The State Election Commission made arrangements for the publicity of its activities and for the dissemination of information to Public relating to General Election 2020. In association with Information & Public Relations Department, the Commission made wide publicity in the print media regarding the revision of Electoral rolls, election dates, disqualification of

candidates and other important information. In order to educate the voters about the online registration of electors, audio advertisement were also made and broadcasted through various radio channels. A full fledged media centre was established at the Headquarters of the Commission and district levels under the supervision of District Information Officers.



Media Centre arranged at the Commission

In the situation of Covid-19 Pandemic, the Commission made various awareness programmes to the voters, candidates and political parties regarding the precautions to be taken during election campaign. In this regard, the election officials were properly trained in association with the Department of Health Services. The Health Department also made awareness programme through their official channels. Booklets, Posters etc were also published by the Commission with regard to the awareness programme.

സംസ്ഥാന തിരഞ്ഞെടുപ്പ് കമ്മീഷൻ
കേരളം



കോവിഡിനെ അകറ്റു
പ്രാദേശികതലത്തിൽ ജനാധിപത്യം ശക്തമാക്കൂ

വോട്ടർമാരുടെ ശ്രദ്ധയ്ക്ക്

- വായും മുക്കും പൂർണ്ണമായും മറയ്ക്കുന്ന തരത്തിൽ മാസ്ക് ധരിക്കുക
- പോളിംഗ് ബുത്തിൽ കൃത്യമായി സാമൂഹിക അകലം പാലിക്കുക
- ബുത്തിൽ പ്രവേശിക്കുമ്പോഴും തിരികെ ഇറങ്ങുമ്പോഴും നിർബന്ധമായും കൈകൾ സാനിറ്റൈസ് ചെയ്യുക
- വോട്ട് ചെയ്താലുടൻ ബുത്തിന് പുറത്ത് പോകുക
- ബുത്തിന്റെ പരിസരത്ത് കുട്ടും കൂടുകയോ പരസ്പരം സ്പർശിക്കുകയോ ചെയ്യരുത്

A poster in front of a polling booth.

15. MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT

Model Code of Conduct for guidance of political parties and candidates is a set of norms which has been evolved with the consensus of political parties who have consented to abide by the principles embodied in the said code and also bind them to respect and observe it in letter and spirit. During the General Election 2020 the Model Code of Conduct came into force with effect from 06/11/2020 onwards. In this regard the Commission had given the necessary direction to the Chief Secretary of Kerala, State Police Chief, District Election Officers and other officials to ensure that there occurred no violation of the Model Code of Conduct during the election period.

16. ELECTION WITH GREEN PROTOCOL

The State Election Commission had decided to conduct a free, fair and smooth election to LSGIs by complying Green Protocol. This helped in

a large way to reduce the quantity of various types of wastes like plastic, flex etc. The Commission implemented the Green Protocol with the support of political parties, officials of various government departments and public during the election process. In this regard Haritham Kerala Mission and Suchitwa Mission jointly prepared a handbook on "Election without Plastic" and it was released by the State Election Commissioner.



State Election Commissioner releases handbook on "Election without Plastic" handing over a copy to the Executive Director, Suchitwa Mission.

As part of the General Election 2020, the Commission as per the Circular No. B1-733870-2019-SEC, dated 20/10/2020, had issued directions with regard to the installation of boards, banners, flags, festoon by the candidates and political parties. The Commission had also imposed ban for the use of plastic, flex etc. for the election campaign. The District Election Officer and other officials were strictly directed to ensure that such items are not used in the election. Hon. High Court, as per judgement dated 20.11.2020 in WP(C) Nos. 22750,25784 and 42574 of 2018, has ordered the State Election Commission to ensure the directives in the circular are complied with in its letter and spirit and thus making sure that every illegal board/banner/flag/festoon is removed and disposed of without fail and without delay.

Accordingly the Commission had directed the State Police Chief, Director of Panchayats and Urban Affairs, all District Election Officers and Observers to make sure that the illegal boards, banners, flags etc are removed and disposed of without delay.

17. IMPORTANT PUBLICATIONS ON ELECTION

In connection with the General Election to the Local Self Government Institutions in 2020, the State Election Commission had published the following 13 handbooks/guidelines on various subjects relating to the election, for the use of the officials and polling personnel.

1. Handbook for Electoral Registration Officers
2. Hand book for District Election Officers
3. Hand book for Returning Officers
4. Hand book for Presiding Officers
5. Hand book for Police Officers
6. Handbook of Symbols
7. Manuals for Electronic Voting Machine - Single Post & Multi Post
8. Model Code of Conduct
9. Guildelines for Reservation.
10. Guidelines for the election to the Standing Committees
11. Guidelines for election of Chairperson & Deputy Chairperson of Municipalities
12. Guidelines for election of Presidents & Vice Presidents of Panchayats
13. Booklet for Political Parties and Electors

18. ELECTION FUND

In order to meet the expenditure in connection with the conduct of all elections to Local Self Government Institutions, the Government of Kerala

allot funds to State Election Commission under the Head of Account 2015-00-109-99-34OC. In the General Election 2020, the Commission had proposed to allot an amount of Rs.227.3 crores under the head and of which 190 crores was allotted by the Government. During the General Election, the Commission allotted funds to the District Election Officers & District Collector of all districts as requested by them to meet the expenditure incurred in the district.

The District Election Officers, considering the requirements for the conduct of election, allotted funds to the Returning Officers, Assistant Returning Officers & other election officials in advance. After the election process was over, the claims of such officials are being settled by the District Election Officers.

Some election activities like printing of Forms, Registers, Ballot Paper etc; procurement of election materials and stationery, purchase of mask, sanitizer, gloves, face shield, PPE Kit; postal charges for sending postal ballots etc were carried out by the Commission in a centralised manner. Hence the payments in connection with such activities are being settled by the Commission directly.

So far it is ascertained that a total amount of Rs 173 crore has been expended for the conduct of General Election. It is also learned that in some districts certain bills relating to the elections are still pending to settle the claims. In this regard the District Election Officers were strictly directed by the Commission to take urgent steps to settle all pending claims before 31st March 2021.

Chapter - IX

NOTIFICATION OF GENERAL ELECTION 2020

1. ANNOUNCEMENT OF ELECTION

As per Section 38 of the Kerala Panchayat Raj Act, 1994 and Section 94 of the Kerala Municipality Act, 1994, the State Election Commission had scheduled dates for the General Election to all Local Bodies except Mattannur Municipality. In order to announce the dates of the election, the Commission had convened a Press Conference on 06.11.2020 at the Conference Hall of the Commission. The Commissioner informed that the State Election Commission had already completed all the preparatory works in connection with the General Election. He also stated that the Commission was not in a position to conduct the General Election before the expiry of the duration of existing Panchayats and Municipalities as envisaged in the Constitution of India due to the unprecedented Covid-19 Pandemic situation. However, the Commission had drawn up an election programme to complete the entire election process before 31.12.2020. Thereafter the Commissioner announced that the poll to all local bodies in Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Pathanamthitta, Alappuzha and Idukki will be conducted on 08th December 2020, in Kottayam, Ernakulam, Thrissur, Palakkad, Wayanad on 10th December 2020 and in Malappuram, Kozhikode, Kannur (except Mattannur) and Kasargod on 14th December 2020. Counting of votes in all districts was scheduled on 16th December 2020. Schedule of General Election is shown in Table 11.



State Election Commissioner announces Election dates at a Press Meeting.

Table - 11

Schedule of General Election 2020

Sl. No	Particulars	Date
1.	Date of Announcement of election	06.11.2020 (Friday)
2.	Date of issue of Notification of Government, State Election Commission and the Election Notice by ROs	12.11.2020 (Thursday)
3.	Last date for filing Nomination	19.11.2020 (Thursday)
4.	Scrutiny of Nominations	20.11.2020 (Friday)
5.	Last date for withdrawal of Candidature	23.11.2020 (Monday)
6.	Date for conducting poll, if necessary For Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Pathanamthitta, Alappuzha, Idukki	08.12.2020 (Tuesday)
	Kottayam, Ernakulam, Thrissur, Palakkad, Wayanad	10.12.2020 (Thursday)
	Malappuram, Kozhikode, Kannur, Kasargod	14.12.2020 (Monday)
7.	Date of Counting votes	16.12.2020 (Wednesday)
8.	Completion of Election	23.12.2020 (Wednesday)
9.	Last date for submission of election expenditure statement of candidate	14.01.2021 (Thursday)

State Election Commission, Kerala

The code of conduct came into force with effect from 06.11.2020. Prior to the declaration of election schedule the Commission had instructed the Chief Secretary and the Head of all Departments, Local Self Government Institutions, Educational Institutions and other Public undertakings not to transfer any officer or staff under their control till the election process was over.

As suggested by the Commission, the Government, as per Notification SRO No. 815/2020 (GO(P) 68/2020/LSGD dated 12.11.2020 and SRO No. 816/2020 (GO(P) 69/2020/LSGD dated 12.11.2020, called upon all the constituencies/wards of Panchayats and Municipalities in the State (except Mattannur Municipality) to elect their members in accordance with the provisions in the Kerala Panchayat Raj Act and the Kerala Municipality Act and the Rules framed thereunder. The State Election Commission as per Orders from No. 308/2020/SEC to 311/2020/SEC dated 12.11.2020 had issued Notifications to conduct General Election to all constituencies/wards of all Grama, Block, District Panchayats and all Municipalities and Municipal Corporations except Mattannur Municipality in Kannur District.

2. DATES FOR NOMINATION

As per notification dated 12.11.2020 issued by the Commission, the Returning Officers concerned received nominations filed by the candidates from 12.11.2020 onwards. The last date fixed for the receipt of nomination was 19.11.2020 and the date for the scrutiny of nominations was on 20.11.2020. The last date for the withdrawal of candidature fixed was on 23.11.2020. There were a total no. of 116969 nominations received by the Returning Officers concerned till then and of which 55219 nominations were filed by the women candidates. After scrutiny and withdrawal of candidature, there were 74,835 contesting candidates in all local bodies. Out of which 38,566 candidates were women. List of district-wise contesting candidates is shown in Table 12.

Table 12
General Election 2020
No. of Candidates of Local Bodies

Districts	Corpn	Muni	DP	BP	GP	Total
Thiruvananthapuram	556	516	97	523	4710	6402
Kollam	231	445	107	528	4411	5722
Pathanamthitta	-	493	60	342	2803	3698
Alappuzha	-	789	82	508	4084	5463
Kottayam	-	734	89	491	4118	5432
Idukki	-	242	60	337	2595	3234
Ernakulam	400	1415	105	611	4724	7255
Trissur	231	964	107	689	5030	7021
Palakkad	-	809	126	636	5016	6587
Malappuram	-	1524	145	839	5879	8387
Kozhikkode	350	882	102	557	4091	5982
Wayanad	-	323	55	171	1308	1857
Kannur	206	878	82	437	3544	5147
Kasaragod	-	329	65	263	1991	2648
Total	1974	10343	1282	6932	54304	74835

Table 13

Nomination (Candidates) Statistics - Reservation wise

Districts	General	Reservation					Total
		Women	ST	SC	SC Women	ST Women	
Kasaragod	1189	1253	54	104	6	42	2648
Kannur	2385	2466	74	193	19	10	5147
Wayanad	737	745	138	59	8	170	1857
Kozhikkode	2790	2743	3	284	162	-	5982
Malappuram	4140	3638	15	383	211	-	8387
Palakkad	3008	2484	71	445	521	58	6587
Thrissur	3207	2999	6	404	402	3	7021
Ernakulam	3390	3217	3	403	240	2	7255
Idukki	1313	1329	99	279	155	59	3234
Kottayam	2518	2441	29	311	118	15	5432
Alappuzha	2595	2349		315	204	-	5463
Pathanamthitta	1594	1634	10	255	205	-	3698
Kollam	2571	2415	3	361	372	-	5722
Thiruvananthapuram	2912	2694	37	400	350	9	6402
Total	34349	32407	542	4196	2973	368	74835

3. POLL ON 08TH, 10TH & 14TH DEC 2020

In the wake of the Covid 19 Pandemic and the request, made by various stakeholders the Commission had decided to conduct General Election to all Grama Panchayats, Block Panchayats, District Panchayats, Municipality & Municipal Corporations in Kerala in three phases. Poll in all Grama Panchayats, Block panchayats, District Panchayats, Municipalities and Municipal Corporations in Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Pathanamthitta, Alappuzha and Idukki districts was held on 08.12.2020 (Tuesday), in Kottayam, Ernakulam, Thrissur Palakkad and Wayanad districts on 10.12.2020 (Thursday) and in Malappuram, Kozhikode, Kannur and Kasargod districts (except Mattannur Municipality) on 14.12.2020 (Monday). The poll time fixed by the Commission in all districts was from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. The state wide average percentage of polling in three phases was 75.95%. The district wise percentage of polling is shown in Table 14.

The polling was peaceful and no untoward incidents like booth capturing, violence, malpractice etc. were reported from anywhere in the state. But, polling in one polling station in Alappuzha (Mararikulam south Grama Panchayat) was disrupted due to the failure of Electronic Voting Machine. Therefore, repolling in that polling station was conducted on 14.12.2020.

Table 14

General Election 2020				
Polling Percentage (Local body wise)				
Sl No	District	Panchayath	Municipality	Corporation
1	Thiruvananthapuram	74.12	72.68	59.96
2	Kollam	74.69	74.44	66.22
3	Pathanamthitta	69.7	69.83	
4	Alappuzha	78.06	74.04	
5	Kottayam	74.5	73.33	
6	Idukki	74.33	78.67	
7	Ernakulam	81.01	75.56	62.04
8	Trissur	76.34	76.39	64.71
9	Palakkad	78.82	73.53	
10	Malappuram	78.87	79.08	
11	Kozhikkod	81.28	80.42	70.46
12	Wayanad	79.46	79.48	
13	Kannur	79.5	69.76	72.48
14	Kasargod	77.3	76.87	
	Average	77.3	75.63	64.55

TABLE 15

GENERAL ELECTION 2020
POLLING PERCENTAGE

District	Polling Percentage											
	Total Voters			No. votes Polled			Percentage of Polling					
	Male	Female	TG	Total	Male	Female	TG	Total	Male	Female	TG	Total
KASARGOD	50204	546545	6	1048645	379907	430152	2	80061	75.68%	78.70%	33.33%	77.25%
	946405	1090806	10	2187221	722948	848298	4	1571250	76.39%	77.77%	40.00%	77.13%
KANNUR	305921	319534	6	625461	245357	251985	10	497032	80.10%	78.88%	98.67%	79.47%
	1209617	1324458	24	2534099	950597	1056517	11	2007125	78.59%	79.77%	45.83%	79.20%
MALAPPURAM	1629481	1725301	46	3355028	1237696	1409714	8	2647448	75.94%	81.70%	17.39%	78.91%
	1120871	1216521	20	2337412	879322	946865	3	1826190	78.45%	77.83%	83.00%	78.13%
PALAKKAD	1267286	1424167	23	2691486	958771	1063112	4	2024087	75.65%	74.80%	17.39%	75.20%
	1254079	1335109	34	2589222	997099	1009950	14	2001063	79.51%	75.20%	41.18%	77.28%
ERNAKULAM	444641	460024	5	904670	343194	332370	1	675565	77.18%	72.25%	20.00%	74.68%
	780587	833030	10	1613627	999551	993274	3	1193228	76.89%	71.22%	30.00%	73.95%
KOTTAYAM	839025	943588	11	1782624	699007	719911	5	1379523	78.62%	76.30%	45.45%	77.39%
	512786	578838	3	1078647	355642	366374	-	752016	70.73%	68.83%	-	69.72%
PATHANAMTHITTA	1041533	1181231	19	2222783	762590	871361	3	1639584	73.22%	73.77%	15.79%	73.51%
	1330560	1507566	23	2838149	948934	1038520	17	1987231	71.30%	68.89%	73.91%	70.02%
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM	13174896	14489338	240	27669074	10040555	10964603	85	21005743	76.21%	75.70%	35.42%	75.95%

Table -16

Analysis of Polling percentages of General elections.

	1995	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020
No. of Candidates	58,702	60,307	64,159	70,915	75,549	74,835
No. of Polling Stations	28,282	28,274	36,210	37,233	34,423	34,710
No. of Voters	2,05,08,855	2,25,04,328	2,37,05,440	2,40,12,535	2,51,08,536	2,76,56,910
No. of Votes Polled	1,50,74,169	1,48,73,110	1,69,84,236	1,83,26,367	1,95,24,397	2,10,05,743
Percentage of Polling	73.5	66.09	70.35	76.32	77.76	75.95

*Voters with SMS (Sanitizer, Mask, Social Distancing) in queue at a polling***10. COUNTING OF VOTES**

In connection with the General Election 2020, counting of votes of all Panchayats and Municipalities was held on 16.12.2020. As the Electronic Voting Machines were used for poll in the entire polling stations, the results were declared in a short span of time. By around 12 noon, most of the results were declared by the Returning Officers.

Counting of Grama Panchayats, Block Panchayats and District Panchayats was held at Block Panchayat Level and that of Municipalities and Corporation at the Local Body level. In each counting centre at the Block level, separate halls were provided to each of the Returning Officers of Grama Panchayats within the area of that Block Panchayat. Two or more counting tables were arranged in each counting hall. Counting staff, comprising of one supervisor and two counting assistants were appointed by the respective Returning Officer in consultation with the District Election Officer, for smooth counting.

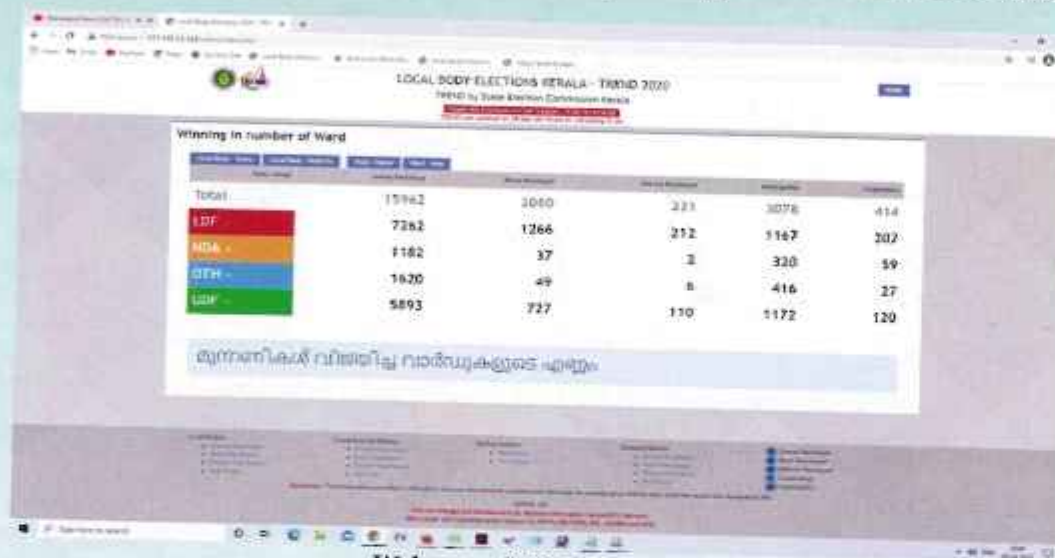
At all levels of local bodies, postal votes including special postal ballots were counted first on the table of the Returning Officer. Thereafter, votes recorded in EVM were counted by the Counting staff. In the Covid-19 Pandemic situation, all precautionary measures had been taken by the Commission to prevent the spread of Virus during the process. The result of one polling booth each in Thiroorangandi & Sulthan Bathery Municipalities could not be retrieved due to the error occurred in the EVMs. Hence, repolling was conducted in those booths on 18.12.2020.

11. TREND

State Election Commission, Kerala with the technical support of National Informatics Centre used TREND site (www.trend.kerala.gov.in) for providing real time trend of results of local body elections 2020 to the Media and Public. The same was used in the General Election held in 2010 & 2015 also.

A comprehensive and elaborated details of the results of all local bodies, ward wise results etc. are available in the Trend site. The site also contains all data regarding polling stations, detailed results, contesting candidates etc which are available online for public.

The TREND site was developed by National Informatics Centre. All the counting centres were connected to the server through dedicated leased lines with the support of the BSNL and Keltron. One data uploading centre was set up in all the counting centres for updating results on real time basis.



Webpage of TREND site

12. SPECIAL ELECTION ON 21.01.2021

As notified by the Commission, the poll to all wards of local bodies was to be held on 8th, 10th and 14th December 2020. Of which, 4 candidates of Grama Panchayats, one candidate of District Panchayat, 2 candidates of Municipality and Municipal Corporation died before the notified poll day. Hence the election to such 7 constituencies was countermanded by Returning Officers concerned in consultation with the State Election Commission. After the General Election, the Commission decided to conduct Special Election to 7 constituencies on 21.01.2021. Accordingly, Special Election was conducted on 21.01.2021 and the result of the same was

declared on 22.01.2021. The details of Special Election is given below in Table.

Table 17

Sl No.	District	Name of Local Body	Ward Name
1	Kollam	Panmana GP	05. Parambimukku
2	Kollam	Panmana GP	13. Chola
3	Alappuzha	Chettikulangara GP	07. PHC Ward
4	Kozhikkode	Mavoor GP	11. Thattoorpoyyil
5	Kannur	Kannur DP	07. Thillankeri
6	Ernakulam	Kalamassery Municipality	37. Municipal ward
7	Thrissur	Thrissur Corporation	47. Pulezhi

13. ELECTION EXPENDITURE OF CANDIDATES

Section 86 of the Kerala Panchayat Raj Act and Section 142 of the Kerala Municipality Act provide that every contesting candidate at an election shall, within 30 days from the date of election of the returned candidate lodge with the officer authorised by the State Election commission an account of his election expenses along with connected records. The said officer shall make available to the Commission the accounts of the election expenses received by him along with list of candidates who did not lodge the accounts of election expenses.

The District Election Officer and District Collector is nominated by the Commission as Authorised Officer to receive the accounts of election expenses of the candidates contested in the District Panchayat, Municipalities and Municipal Corporations. In case of Block Panchayats the Secretary of District Panchayat is authorised in this regard. The Secretary of Block Panchayats is appointed as Authorised Officer to receive the accounts of the candidates of Grama Panchayats coming under the territorial area of the Block Panchayats.

As per Rule 60 of the Kerala Panchayat Raj (Conduct of Election) Rules 1995 the maximum amount of election expenses of a candidate to any constituency of a Grama Panchayat, Block Panchayat and District Panchayat is Rs 25,000, Rs.75,000 & Rs. 1,50,000 respectively. Rule 60 of Kerala

Municipality (Conduct of Election) Rules stipulates the maximum amount of election expenses of a candidate to any ward of a Municipality & Corporation is Rs.75,000 & Rs. 1,50,000 respectively.

The Accounts of the election expenditure of around 74,835 candidates who contested for the General Election 2020 are being examined by the Commission.

Chapter - X

ELECTION RESULTS

The State Election Commission had taken necessary steps to publish the election results declared by the Returning Officers of the Local Self Government Institutions. All results are available in the TREND site (www.lsgselection.kerala.gov.in/trend). The Commission had also notified in the Government Gazette the details of the elected candidates of all Municipalities and Municipal Corporations as per the Order No. 344/2020/SEC dated 24.12.2020. The details of elected candidates of the Grama, Block & District Panchayats are notified by the Commission as per Notification from No. 353/2020/SEC to No. 366/2020/SEC, dated 29.12.2020. The declaration of result of election in Form 25 made by the Returning Officers are also published by the Commission as Extra Ordinary Gazette.

In the General Election, most of the candidates in respect of political parties contested on political front basis. Left Democratic Front (LDF), United Democratic Front (UDF) and National Democratic Alliance (NDA) are the three major political fronts in Kerala who nominated their candidates for contesting election. The political parties included in each political front are given in Annexure 6.



Mediapersons reporting Election Results.

Table 18

General Election Result 2020						
Majority in State - Local body wise						
Party Front	Grama Panchayat	Block Panchayat	District Panchayat	Municipality	Municipal Corporation	Total
LDF	371	105	10	19	3	508
UDF	211	37	2	22	1	273
NDA	2	0	0	2	0	4
Others	8	0	0	43	0	51
No Majority	349	10	2		2	363
Total	941	152	14	86	6	1199

Table - 19

General Election Result 2020						
Majority in State - Ward wise						
Party Front	Grama Panchayat	Block Panchayat	District Panchayat	Municipality	Municipal Corporation	Total
LDF	7262	1267	213	1167	207	10116
UDF	5893	727	110	1173	121	8024
NDA	1182	37	2	320	59	1600
Others	1625	49	6	418	27	2125
Total	15962	2080	331	3078	414	21865

Table - 20

NO.OF SEATS CONTESTED & WON (GENDER WISE)

Local Body	Male		Female		Transgender	
	Contested	Won	Contested	Won	Contested	Won
Grama Panchayat	26012	7159	28292	8804	0	0
Block Panchayat	3393	945	3539	1135	0	0
District Panchayat	685	157	597	174	0	0
Municipality	5186	1399	5158	1679	0	0
Corporation	993	189	980	225	1	0
Total	36269	9849	38566	12017	1	0

Table 21

STATEWISE SEATS WON BY PARTIES

Corporation

Front	Party	Seats
LDF	CON(S)	2
LDF	CPI	28
LDF	CPI(M)	170
LDF	INL	1
LDF	JD(S)	3
LDF	KC(M)	1
LDF	LJD	1
LDF	NCP	1
NDA	BJP	59
OTH	CMPCQ(CPJ)	1
OTH	IND	24
OTH	JSS	1
OTH	SDPI	1
UDF	INC	94
UDF	IUML	21
UDF	KC(M)PJJ	1
UDF	RSP	5

Block Panchayat

Front	Party	Seats
LDF	CPI	211
LDF	CPI(M)	961
LDF	INL	3
LDF	JD(S)	11
LDF	JKC	3
LDF	KC(M)	50
LDF	LJD	13
LDF	NCP	15
NDA	BJP	37
OTH	CMPCQ(CPJ)	1
OTH	IND	36
OTH	RMPI	2
OTH	SDPI	1
OTH	TT	9
UDF	INC	479
UDF	IUML	204
UDF	KC(Jacob)	6
UDF	KC(M)PJJ	35
UDF	RSP	3

District Panchayat

Front	Party	Seats
LDF	CPI	46
LDF	CPI(M)	142
LDF	JD(S)	5
LDF	KC(M)	11
LDF	LJD	6
LDF	NCP	3
NDA	BJP	2
OTH	IND	3
OTH	KJ(Secular)	1
OTH	TT	2
UDF	INC	66
UDF	IUML	36
UDF	KC(M)PJJ	7
UDF	RSP	1

Municipality

Front	Party	Seats
LDF	CON(S)	3
LDF	CPI	113
LDF	CPI(M)	972
LDF	INL	11
LDF	JD(S)	4
LDF	JKC	2
LDF	KC(B)	7
LDF	KC(M)	36
LDF	KC(ST)	1
LDF	LJD	14
LDF	NCP	4
NDA	BJP	317
NDA	KC	2
NDA	LJP	1
OTH	CMPPC(CPI)	2
OTH	IND	383
OTH	MLPI(RF)	1
OTH	NSC	4
OTH	PDP	1
OTH	RMPI	3
OTH	SDPI	18
OTH	WPI	5
UDF	INC	717
UDF	IUML	414
UDF	KC(Jacob)	5
UDF	KC(M)PJJ	34
UDF	RSP	4

Gramapanchayat

Front	Party	Seats
INVD/UN Vote	INVD/UN Vote	1
LDF	CON(S)	1
LDF	CPI	885
LDF	CPI(M)	5948
LDF	INL	14
LDF	JD(S)	49
LDF	JKC	14
LDF	KC(B)	16
LDF	KC(M)	257
LDF	LJD	54
LDF	NCP	25
NDA	BDJS	1
NDA	BJP	1181
OTH	BSP	1
OTH	CMPPC(CPI)	3
OTH	IND	1427
OTH	KJ(Secular)	8
OTH	NSC	1
OTH	PDP	4
OTH	RMPI	15
OTH	RSP(LM)	1
OTH	SDPI	75
OTH	SP	1
OTH	TT	64
OTH	WPI	22
UDF	BNJD	5
UDF	INC	4199
UDF	IUML	1458
UDF	KC(Jacob)	18
UDF	KC(M)PJJ	178
UDF	RSP	38

No. of seats won by political parties on Genderwise and voteshare of Political Parties are shown as Annexure 7 and Annexure 8 respectively.

Chapter - XI

ELECTION OF HEADS & DEPUTY HEADS OF LOCAL BODIES

1. OATH OF NEWLY ELECTED MEMBERS

As requested by the State Election Commission, the Government had nominated the eldest member among the members elected to the local body to convene the first meeting of the newly elected members for taking oath or affirmation in the form listed as second schedule in the Kerala Panchayat Raj Act and as third schedule in the Kerala Municipality Act. Accordingly, the first meeting of member of Panchayats, Municipality and Corporations was convened on 21.12.2020. The eldest member so nominated took oath or affirmation before the Returning Officer concerned and all other members before such eldest member. (Circular No.EM3/172/2020, LSGD, dated 30.11.2020, No.EM3/210/2020/LSGD dated 22.12.2020 and No.EM3/210/2020/LSGD, dated 28.12.2020 of LSG (EM) Dept.

The elected members of all local bodies in which the tenure of the present bodies were expired on or before 20/12/2020 took oath or affirmation in this way. The newly elected members of other local bodies in which tenure expired after 20.12.2020, had taken oath or affirmation as and when the tenure of present local bodies got expired. The details of such local bodies are shown in table

Table 22

LOCAL BODIES IN WHICH TENURE WAS EXPIRED AFTER 20.12.2020

Sl No.	Name of Local Body	District	Date of Oath
1	Wandoor Block Panchayat	Malappuram	22.12.2020
2	Chekkodu Grama Panchayat	Malappuram	26.12.2020
3	Thrikkalangodu Grama Panchayat	Malappuram	16.01.2021
4	Mangalam Grama Panchayat	Malappuram	01.02.2021
5	Vettam Grama Panchayat	Malappuram	01.02.2021
6	Thiruvananthapuram Grama Panchayat	Malappuram	01.02.2021
7	Makkarapparambu Grama Panchayat	Malappuram	01.02.2021
8	Thiroor Block Panchayat	Malappuram	01.02.2021

2. ELECTION OF PRESIDENT/CHAIRPERSON & VICE PRESIDENT/DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON

The State Election Commission, as per Circular No. B1-33870-2020-SEC dated 16.12.2020, had directed the Returning Officers designated for the election of Heads and Deputy Heads of local bodies to take urgent steps to conduct election of President & Vice President of three tier Panchayat Raj Institutions and Chairpersons & Deputy Chairpersons of Municipality & Corporations. Accordingly, the Commission had fixed the dates for the election of Chairman & Vice Chairman of Municipalities and Mayor & Deputy Mayor of Municipal Corporations on 28.12.2020 and that of the President & Vice President of all Grama, Block and District Panchayats on 30.12.2020.

In this regard, the Commission, as per Order No.221/2020/SEC, dated 17/09/2020, had nominated the Officials as Returning Officers for the election of Chairperson and Deputy Chairpersons of Municipalities and Municipal Corporations. Similarly, the Returning Officers were nominated for the election of President and Vice President of Grama, Block and District Panchayats vide Order No.220/2020/SEC, dated 17.09.2020 of the Commission.

The newly elected President, Chairman and Mayors took oath before the Returning Officers concerned and the Vice President, Vice Chairman and Deputy Mayor took oath before the President/Chairman/Mayor of the local bodies.

3. ELECTION TO STANDING COMMITTEES

As per Section 162 of the Kerala Panchayat Raj Act, in a Grama Panchayat and in Block Panchayat, 4 Standing Committees i.e., Standing Committees for Finance, for Development, for Welfare and for Health & Education shall be constituted. In addition to the above 4 Standing Committees, one more Standing Committee i.e., Standing Committee for Public works also to be constituted in case of District Panchayat. Similarly, as per Section 20 of Kerala Municipality Act in a Municipal Council, six Standing Committees, i.e., Standing Committee for Finance, for Development, for Welfare, for Health, for Works and for Education, Arts and Sports shall be constituted. In addition to the above six Standing Committees, two more Standing Committee, i.e., Standing Committee for Town Planning and for Taxation Appeal shall also be constituted for Municipal Corporations.

After the General Election, the Commission had taken steps to elect the members and Chairman of the Standing Committees of local bodies. Prior to that the offices of Chairman of the Standing Committee to be reserved for women had been determined by the Commission on the basis of rotation. The Officials were designated as Returning Officers for the election to Standing Committees, vide Order No.222/2020/SEC to 225/2020/SEC, dated 17.09.2020 of the Commission. The Returning Officer, concerned convened meeting of elected members of the local bodies to elect the members of Standing Committees. Thereafter separate meeting of members of each Standing Committee was convened by Returning Officer to elect the Chairman of Standing Committee. Detailed instructions had been issued by the Commission in this regard, vide Circular No. B1-33870/2020/SEC, dated 30.12.2020.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The State Election Commission, Kerala is very proud of the successful completion of Local Body Election 2020 in Kerala amid the unprecedented Covid-19 Pandemic situation. The Commission is grateful to the Government of Kerala for the co-operation and support given by various Departments like Home, Local Self Government, Health, Revenue, Finance etc in conducting General Election. The Commission is thankful to all the voters who exercised their franchise in election to the local bodies. The Commission is also thankful to the candidates, political parties, public & media for their co-operation, and support extended to the Commission. The Commission also acknowledges the sincerity and hardwork of the District Election Officers, Police Officers, Returning Officers, Electoral Registration Officers and other Officials who were engaged in various facets of the election process.

The Commission would like to place on record its sincere thanks and appreciation for the excellent services rendered by the National Informatics Centre. The active participation of Health Department for the successful conduct of election in the Covid-19 Pandemic situation is highly appreciable. The Police Department also equally deserves appreciation for the services rendered towards maintaining law and order during the period of election. The Commission is very much indebted to the services provided by the Departments of Panchayats, Urban Affairs, Rural Development, Revenue, IT Mission, Keltron, BSNL, Postal Department, Kerala State Electricity Board, Kerala Water Authority, Fire and Rescue Services. Needless to say that without the services & support of any of the above departments, it would not have been possible for us to conduct the General Election 2020 in such an impeccable manner.

26.03.2021

V.Bhaskaran
State Election Commissioner

ANNEXURES

Annexure - 1

List of Officers & Staff in the State Election Commission

No	Name	Designation
1.	Shri. A. Santhosh	Secretary
2.	Shri. S. Mohandas	Additional Secretary & Sr.AO
3.	Shri. P. Francis D'cruz	PS to Commissioner
4.	Shri. Remesan M K	Additional Secretary
5.	Shri. Gopal V S	Additional Secretary
6.	Shri. Prakash B S	Additional Secretary
7.	Smt. B Neena	Sr. Finance Manager
8.	Shri. V Shajimon	Law Officer
9.	Shri. C. Radhakrishna Kurup	Consultant
8.	Shri. James P J	Joint Secretary (P)
9.	Smt. Deepa L S	Joint Secretary (M)
10.	Shri. K G Santhosh	Public Relations Officer
11.	Shri. Reghuvaran S	Section Officer (Admin.)
13.	Shri. B Umesh	Section Officer (Election)
14.	Shri. Manjith. S	Computer Programmer (Contract)
15.	Smt. Susheela. A	CA to Commissioner (Contract)
14.	Smt. Reena N	Assistant
15.	Shri. Y. Praveen Das	Assistant
16.	Shri. Siju Vasudevan	Assistant
17.	Smt. Jisy V	Assistant
18.	Smt. Deepa A H	Assistant

19.	Smt. Baby Sreejisha	Assistant
20.	Shri. Shajahan M	Assistant
21.	Smt. Beena H	Assistant
22.	Smt. Priya Kumari P J	Assistant
23.	Shri. Suresh Kumar S	Assistant
24.	Shri. Jagannath C R	Assistant
25.	Smt. Ganga Varma T	Court Assistant
26.	Shri. Gopakumar G S	Data Entry Operator
27.	Smt. Beejarani L	Confidential Assistant
28.	Smt. Renimol N	Typist
29.	Smt. Anuja Divine Angel B L	Confidential Assistant (Daily Wages)
30.	Smt. Anupa Divine Angel B L	Confidential Assistant (Daily Wages)
31.	Shri. Rishad R	Typist (Daily Wages)
32.	Smt. Chithra L S	Typist (Contract)
33.	Shri. Anoop Krishnan J S	Computer Assistant (Daily Wages)
34.	Smt. Sreelekshmi S P	Receptionist
35.	Shri. Satheesh J	Office Attendant (Contract)
36.	Shri. Pradeep Soman	Office Attendant
37.	Shri. Praveen Raj S	Office Attendant
38.	Smt. Sajithakumari	Office Attendant
39.	Shri. Arunkumar S	Office Attendant
40.	Shri. Raju G	Office Attendant
41.	Shri. Arun John J	Office Attendant
42.	Smt. Suja P	Office Attendant

43.	Smt. Sreekumari K G	Office Attendant (Co-terminus)
44.	Shri. P Sreedharan Nair	Office Attendant (Contract)
44.	Shri. Sunil Kumar. S	Driver
45.	Shri. S Sivadasan	Driver
45.	Shri. Ramesh Kumar. T	Driver
46.	Shri. Satheesh Kumar. S	Gunman
47.	Shri. Biju Kumar. A	Gunman
48.	Smt. Vimala Devi. A	Part Time Sweeper
49.	Smt. Niji N	Part Time Sweeper
50.	Shri. Rajendran Nair	Watchman (Contract)
51.	Shri. S Balachandran Nair	Watchman (Contract)
52.	Shri. V Ashok Kumar	Watchman (Contract)

Annexure - 2



PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMISSIONER,
STATE ELECTION COMMISSION, KERALA, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM
(PRESENT: V.BHASKARAN)

Sub: State Election Commission - Conduct of General Election to Local Self Government Institutions, 2020 - Orders issued.

No. B1- 33870 -2020-SEC

Date: 28.10.2020

ORDER

The State Election Commission is constituted under Articles 243K/ 243ZA of the Constitution of India for the superintendence, direction and control of the preparation of electoral rolls for, and the conduct of, all elections to the Panchayats/Municipalities.

2. Articles 243E and 243U of the Constitution of India mandates that the election to constitute a Panchayat/ Municipality shall be completed before the expiry of its duration. As per the above Constitutional provisions, the term of the present Panchayats at all level and Municipalities (except Mattannur Municipality) and Municipal Corporations would expire on 11-11-2020 and the General Election to constitute Panchayats and Municipalities will have to be held before 11-11-2020 so that the new members shall be in office on 12-11-2020.

3. In Kishansing Tomar v. Municipal Corporation of the city of Ahmedabad and others ((2006) 8 SCC 352) the Constitution Bench of the Hon'ble Supreme Court held that Article 243-U of the Constitution of India (which corresponds to Article 243-E in the cases of Panchayats) is a mandatory requirement and it is incumbent upon the State Election Commission to carry out the mandate of the Constitution and to see that the elections to Municipalities are conducted before the expiry of its duration of five years as mandatorily specified in Article 243U(1) of the Constitution.

4. The State Election Commission is conscious of the mandate of the Constitution that it is incumbent on the part of the Commission to conduct election to Local Self Government Institutions before the expiry of the duration of the present bodies. Accordingly, the preparations for holding elections

are in full swing though the election process has not commenced and no date has been fixed for the poll. The election machinery of the State is alerted so as to be in a state of readiness for timely holding of election.

5. The State Election Commission is also aware and conscious of Covid-19 Pandemic and the advisories of the Governments to contain the spread of the virus. The Commission is tracking the Covid-19 situation in the State. The Commission has accordingly held meeting with the Director of Health Services of the State on 17-08-2020 regarding the conduct of election during the pandemic.

6. In the all party meeting convened on 18-09-2020 the majority of the Political Parties have requested the Commission for postponement of the election a little in view of the Covid-19 pandemic situation in the State.

7. The Commission has considered all the inputs so received. In Kishansing Tomar's case (supra) the Hon'ble Supreme Court observed;

"21) It is true that there may be certain man-made calamities, such as rioting or breakdown of law and order, or natural calamities which could distract the authorities from holding elections to the Municipality, but they are exceptional circumstances and under no circumstance the Election Commission would be justified in delaying the process of election after consulting the State Government and other authorities. But that should be an exceptional circumstance and shall not be a regular feature to extend the duration of the Municipality. Going by the provisions contained in Article 243-U, it is clear that the period of five years fixed there under to constitute the Municipality is mandatory in nature and has to be followed in all respects".

8. The Commission has already taken all preparations for the timely completion of election before the expiration of the duration of five years' period stipulated in the Constitution. At the same time taking note of the extraordinary situation and exceptional circumstances that exist in the State due to Covid-19 pandemic the Commission hereby decides to defer the appointment of dates for nominations etc. to a date after 11.11.2020.

9. Therefore the State Election Commission in exercise of its powers under Article 243 K of the Constitution of India and all other enabling provisions in this regard and on detailed consideration of the factual situation as on date and for the most efficacious manner of conducting election in substantial compliance with the Constitutional mandate under Articles 243E and 243U, hereby decides to hold elections to all Municipal Corporations, Municipalities and Panchayats at all levels in the State of Kerala in a manner

to complete the entire election process to all these constituencies at the earliest, at any rate, before 31.12.2020. Detailed election schedule will be published at the time of announcement of election.

V. Bhaskaran

State Election Commissioner.

To

The Chief Secretary, Government of Kerala (with covering letter)
The Principal Secretary, Local Self Government Department (with covering letter)

The Director, Panchayat Department,
The Director, Urban Affairs Department,
The Commissioner of Rural Development,
All District Election Officers and District Collectors,

Annexure - 3

THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE SECRETARY,
STATE ELECTION COMMISSION

(Present: A Santhosh)

Subject: Kerala State Election Commission - Conduct of General Elections to Local self Government Institutions 2020 by controlling the spread of COVID-19 - Guidelines issued.

Reference: The Decision taken at the meeting of the representatives of various political parties held on 18.09.2020 convened by the State Election Commission.

No. B1-33894/2020/SEC

Dated, 16.10.2020

ORDER

The preparatory works in connection with the general elections to the 941 Grama Panchayats, 152 Block Panchayats and 14 District Panchayat, 86 Municipalities except Mattannoor, and 6 Municipal Corporations, are in progress. Considering the spread of COVID-19 in the State, based on the decisions taken in the referred meeting, Guidelines for conduct of General Elections by following COVID-19 regulations are issued, which are appended here to.

A.SANTHOSH

SECRETARY

To all District Election Officer
To all Returning Officers & Assistant Returning Officers
To all Electoral Registration Officers
To all the Secretaries of Local Bodies

Copy To:
Principal Secretary, Department of Local Self Government Institutions
Panchayat Director, Thiruvananthapuram
Director of Urban affairs, Thiruvananthapuram
Rural Development Commissioner, Thiruvananthapuram
To all Panchayat Deputy Directors,
To all Regional Joint Directors Urban affairs
Public Relations Officer, State Election Commission
Standing Counsel, State Election Commission
To all Nodal Officers
Computer Programmer
PS of the Commissioner
CA of the Secretary
Stock File/ Office copy

APPENDIX

GUIDELINES FOR CONDUCTING GENERAL ELECTIONS TO
PANCHAYAT, MUNICIPALITY WITH COVID-19
REGULATIONS

Considering the spread of Covid-19 in the State, Guidelines to be followed by the candidates, political parties, officers and others during the General Elections to be conducted to Local Self Government Institutions this year are given below.

1. Training of Election Officers

The Commission will appoint nearly 2 Lakhs employees for the conduct of general elections to Local Self-Government Institutions. A two days direct training programme will be organized for Returning Officers and Assistant Returning officers and one day direct training programme will be organized for officers to be engaged in polling and counting duties.

Ø The training shall be conducted for Panchayats at the block level and for Municipalities at the District level in different batches with maximum of 40 persons per batch.

Ø Halls with sufficient space and proper ventilations shall be used as Venues for conducting the training programmes.

Ø Air-conditioned halls shall be avoided and all halls including furniture therein shall be disinfected.

Ø Sanitizers ought to be made available inside the training halls and water and soap shall be made available outside the training halls.

Ø Sanitizer shall be used before entering and leaving the training hall.

Ø Arrangements shall be made under the guidance of CHC/PHC for testing the body temperature of persons starting of training.

Ø During the time of training and also during the intervals the trainees are mandatorily required to wear masks and the seats shall be arranged keeping 2 meter distance.

Ø The list of names and other details of the persons who are in the containment zones/ quarantine shall be prepared and special training programmes shall be arranged for those.

2. The District Level Meeting of Political Parties.

The meeting of the District level representatives of Political parties will be convened by the District Collectors according to the direction of the Commission.

Ø Only representative for each political party subject to a Maximum of 40 people can participate in the meeting.

Ø The meeting shall be conducted in halls with sufficient space and ventilation.

Ø The seats in the hall shall be arranged by keeping two meter distance between each seat.

Ø Wearing of Mask and use of hand sanitizer prior to entry in to the hall are compulsory.

3. EVM First Level Checking (FLC)

Ø Prior to the elections, the Engineers from the Electronic Corporation of India shall examine at the District Centers that EVM are functioning properly. Since the engineers are coming from outside Kerala, they ought to undergo quarantine as directed by the Health Department. COVID-19 test will be conducted after a week, and FLC related work shall commence as per the direction of the Health Department.

Ø At least one month time is required to conduct FLC test in every District and sufficient arrangements should be made in the halls for the same.

Ø Halls should be arranged in a way that, there should be adequate space and ventilation.

Ø During the conduct of FLC each political party is entitled to send one representative, subject to the maximum of 30 persons in a hall.

Ø Soap and water shall be arranged outside the FLC Centers.

Ø It is mandatory that social distancing norms be followed and masks and sanitizers be used in FLC centers.

4. Acceptance of Nomination

The nomination form and 2A form will be available at the website of the Commission and the said forms shall be filled and submitted to the Returning Officer on or before the prescribed time.

Ø A convenient hall shall be arranged to accept nominations and only the persons associated with one Candidate will be allowed to enter the hall at a time.

Ø Not more than three persons including the candidate and proposer can be present while submitting the nomination form.

Ø The persons who have come for submitting the nominations shall wash hands with soap or use sanitizer before entering the hall.

Ø At the time of submission of the nomination forms, social distancing norms shall be followed and masks and sanitizers shall be used.

Ø If required, each candidate may be allotted time for submission of their nomination forms.

Ø In case more than one candidate arrives to submit the nomination forms at the same time, another hall shall be arranged for the rest of the people to wait following social distancing norms.

Ø While accepting the nomination forms, the Returning Officer/ the Assistant Returning Officer shall mandatorily wear mask, gloves and face shield.

Ø After accepting each Candidate's nomination form, the Returning Officer/ Assistant Returning Officer shall use sanitizer,

Ø The Security Deposit may be made in the treasury or the concerned local body and the Chelan/receipt can be produced.

Ø Only one vehicle can be used by each candidate who comes to submit their nomination form.

Ø With the candidate there shall not be any crowd, rally or fleet of vehicles.

Ø The persons, who are from containment zones or those who are quarantined shall inform the concerned authorities prior to their entry into the halls to submit the nomination forms. The Returning Officers should allot a specific time slot for them and should also take special precautions while dealing with them.

Ø In case the Candidate is COVID positive or is undergoing quarantine as per the directions of the Health Department, the nomination form can be submitted through the prosper and the concerned candidate can take an oath and sign in the presence of an officer authorized for those by the State Election Commission and the said form of Oath shall be submitted before the Returning Officer.

Ø All the legal requirements for submission of the nomination shall be mandatorily observed.

5. Scrutiny

The Scrutiny will be conducted by the Returning Officer as is notified in advance.

Ø For the purpose of scrutiny, a suitable hall, which is disinfected and having sufficient ventilations shall be provided.

Ø During the time of scrutiny, only the candidate from each ward, their Proposer and agents shall be present, subject to a maximum of 30 persons.

Ø The seating arrangements in the hall shall be made by following the social distancing norms.

Ø During the time of scrutiny, the Returning Officer, Assistant Returning Officer shall use mask, gloves, face shield and sanitizers.

Ø All legal requirements for scrutiny shall be followed.

6. The meeting of the Candidates

Ø The Returning Officer shall convene meeting of political parties and candidates for explaining the electoral arrangements and Model Code of Conduct.

Ø Meetings with candidates of more than one ward can be arranged, subject to a maximum number of 30 persons.

Ø Halls with sufficient space and ventilation shall be used for this.

Ø The seating arrangement shall be made in a manner complying with the social distancing norms.

Ø Mask and sanitizer shall be mandatorily used.

7. Campaigning activities of the Candidates

Ø Only maximum of five persons including the candidate can visit a house in connection with campaigning.

Ø During house visits, COVID protocol shall be complied.

Ø The maximum number of vehicles that can be used for road shows/rallies is three.

Ø Rallies, crowd, grand finale of campaigning etc shall be avoided in the light of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Ø Public meetings and Family meetings may be conducted only in compliance with the COVID-19 regulations. Prior permission of the police

shall be taken for conducting public meetings.

Ø The physical distribution of notices/pamphlets used in connection with campaigning should be kept to minimal level and maximum use of social media shall be done.

Ø The message, that the voters shall mandatorily use mask and sanitizers shall form part of the campaigning activities.

Ø There shall be no functions involving garlanding of candidates using flowers garland or money garland, or shawl.

Ø In the course of campaigning if any candidate is tested COVID positive or is forced to undergo quarantine as directed by the Health Department, he shall immediately withdraw himself from all the campaigning activities and shall restrain himself from being in after getting the permission of the Health Department, the said candidate can resume his campaign work.

8. Candidate Setting

Ø The Candidate setting in the Electronic Voting machines will be done under the guidance of the Returning Officers.

Ø Halls having sufficient space and ventilation shall be arranged for candidate setting. For each local body, separate halls shall be set.

Ø The said Halls shall be disinfected on the previous day of Candidate Setting.

Ø One person representing each candidate, subject to a maximum of 30 persons, can be present at the time of candidate setting, and the seats in the hall shall be arranged in compliance with the social distancing norms.

Ø Mask, sanitizer and gloves shall be made compulsory inside the hall, and soap and water shall be provided outside the hall.

9. Distribution of Polling materials

The Polling materials shall be distributed on the previous day of the elections and the same shall be collected back immediately after the election and kept in the strong room. The Distribution centers of polling materials for Panchayat are distributed at the Block level, for Municipal Corporations and Municipalities are distributed at the Municipal Corporations and Municipalities itself.

Ø The Distribution/Collection centers shall be disinfected on the previous day of the elections and also on the day of the poll.

Ø The polling materials required for each polling shall be packed and kept separately at least a week prior to the election.

Ø Those election officers engaged in packing the polling materials shall compulsorily wear masks and gloves and use sanitizers.

Ø The Officers entrusted with Distribution/Collection shall compulsorily use mask, sanitizers and gloves.

Ø Time slots shall be allotted for distribution of polling materials to each Panchayat under a Block.

Ø The polling officers shall report at the distribution centers on the previous day of the election during the allotted time and shall also board the vehicles which have been arranged for transporting them to their respective polling stations.

Ø The packet containing the polling materials (kit) shall be kept in the pre-defined vehicle in advance.

Ø The polling officers and polling materials shall be taken to the concerned polling stations in the allotted vehicles (one bus for 4 Booths) (21 officers and kits)

Ø After the elections, the said polling officers and the items shall be brought back to the distribution centers in the same manner.

10. Polling Booths

Ø Every polling station shall be disinfected on the previous day.

Ø In every polling station there shall be four polling officers, one attender and one police officer. The booth agents of candidates in one polling booth shall not exceed 10.

Ø The seating arrangement of polling agents shall be made in compliance with the social distancing norms.

Ø The polling officers shall stay in the polling stations from the previous day of elections.

Ø Water and soup shall be provided outside the polling booth and sanitizer inside the polling booth.

Ø Specified areas at definite distance shall be marked in front of the polling booth, for the voters to stand in queue complying with social distancing norms.

Ø Specific queue shall be arranged for men and women. It is not necessary for the differently abled, old persons and patients to stand in queue.

Ø While distributing slips by the candidates or their agents, within the prescribed distance from the polling booth, soap, water, sanitizer etc shall be mandatorily provided. A maximum of two persons alone are allowed to distribute the slip and they shall mandatorily wear mask and gloves.

11. Voting

Ø The Polling officers shall use face and shield mask, sanitizer and gloves mandatorily. The Polling agents shall mandatorily use mask and sanitizer.

Ø When voters enter and exit the polling booth, they shall use sanitizer.

Ø The voters entering the polling booth shall show the ID card for the purpose of identification.

Ø The voters must mandatorily wear mask and may remove the mask only in case it is required for identification.

Ø The voters shall put their signature on the Register and affix finger impression.

Ø The ink must be carefully applied on the fingers on the voters.

Ø Voters of three tier Panchayats are to cast 3 votes and voters of Municipalities or Corporations are to cast one vote.

Ø Only three voters, complying with social distancing norms, shall be present at a time inside a polling booth.

Ø Those who are COVID positive, or are in quarantine or are engaged in election duty can choose to do postal voting.

Ø Those engaged, in the distribution and collection of postal ballot, shall mandatorily use gloves, mask and sanitizer.

Ø After the elections, the documents should be put into separate packets and shall be returned to acceptance centers.

12. Counting of Votes

Ø Vote counting centers shall be disinfected on the previous day itself.

Ø Counting of votes shall be done at the respective Distribution and Collection Centers.

Ø The Counting Officers shall mandatorily wear gloves, mask etc.

Ø While entering and exiting the hall sanitizer shall be used compulsorily.

Ø Candidates and counting agents shall use mask and sanitizer.

Ø The Counting table shall be arranged following the social distancing norms.

Ø Victory celebrations and demonstrations shall be done only in strict compliance with COVID-19 regulations.

13. Awareness Programmes

Ø The Commission will organize awareness programmes for voters, political parties and candidates for conducting the elections by complying with COVID-19 Regulations.

Ø Awareness will be conducted through TV channels, social media (Whatsapp, Facebook, Twitter), FM Radio and Newspapers.

Ø Posters will be pasted and circulars/pamphlets will be distributed in areas near the polling stations regarding the COVID-19 related precautions.

A.Santhosh

Secretary

State Election Commission

Annexure 4

STATE ELECTION COMMISSION, KERALA

NOTIFICATION

No. 278/2020/SEC Dated, Thiruvananthapuram, 6th November, 2020

In pursuance of paragraph 7 of the Local Authorities Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 2017, and in supersession of the notification No. 58/2017/SEC dated 21.06.2017, published in the Kerala Gazette Extraordinary No.1272 dated 21.06.2017, the State Election Commission, Kerala hereby publish an up-to-date list, namely:-

(i) The National Parties and the symbols respectively reserved to them, in Table I;

(ii) The State Parties of Kerala and the symbols respectively reserved to them, in Table II;

(iii) The State Parties of other States and Union Territories and Registered unrecognised Parties having member or members in the Kerala Legislative Assembly or having member or members in any of the Local Self Government Institutions in the State of Kerala and the symbols respectively allotted to them, in Table III;

(iv) Free symbols for the independent candidates which include the symbols allotted to Registered unrecognised Political Parties having no member or members in the Kerala Legislative Assembly or in any of the Local Self Government Institutions in the State of Kerala, in Table IV.

(2) Any other Political Parties not coming under the tables given below and Independent Candidates shall be allotted symbols from Table IV, on priority basis.

TABLE I
NATIONAL PARTIES

<i>Serial Number</i>	<i>Name of Party</i>	<i>Symbol Reserved</i>
1	Bahujan Samaj Party	Elephant
2	Bharatiya Janata Party	Lotus
3	Communist Party of India	Ears of Corn and Sickles
4	Communist Party of India (Marxist)	Hammer, Sickles and Star
5	Indian National Congress	Hand
6	Nationalist Congress Party	Clock
[7] ¹	All India Trinamool Congress	Flowers & Grass

¹ Inserted by Notification No 48/2017/SEC, dated 11.05.2017

TABLE II
STATE PARTIES IN KERALA

<i>Serial Number</i>	<i>Name of Party</i>	<i>Symbol Reserved</i>
1	Indian Union Muslim League	Ladder
2	Janata Dal (Secular)	A Lady Farmer Carrying Paddy on her head
3	Kerala Congress (M)	Two Leaves
4	Revolutionary Socialist Party	Spade and Stoker

Table III

**STATE PARTIES OF OTHER STATES AND UNION TERRITORIES
AND REGISTERED UN RECOGNISED POLITICAL PARTIES
HAVING MEMBER OR MEMBERS IN THE KERALA LEGISLATIVE
ASSEMBLY OR HAVING MEMBER OR MEMBERS IN ANY OF THE
LOCAL SELF GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS
IN THE STATE OF KERALA**

<i>Serial Number</i>	<i>Name of Party</i>	<i>Symbol allotted</i>
1	Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)	Broom
2	All India Anna DMK (AIADMK)	Hat
3	All India Forward Block	Lion
[4] ¹		
5	Communist Marxist Party (CMP)	Aeroplane*
6	Congress (Secular)	Coconut tree bearing fruits
7	Indian National League (INL)	Scales
8	Janadhipatya Samrakshana Samithi (JSS)	Bus
9	Janata Dal (United)	Arrow
10	Kerala Congress (B)	Rising Sun
11	Kerala Congress (Jacob)	Battery Torch
12	Kerala Congress	Chair
13	Lok Janshakti Party	Bungalow

¹ Deleted by Notification No. 48/2017/SEC, dated 11.05.2017.

*Frozen as per order No. 480/2015/SEC, dated 10.08.2015

14	National Secular Conference	Glass Tumbler
15	Peoples Democratic Party (PDP)	Boat
16	Rashtriya Janata Dal	Hurricane Lamp
17	Rashtriya Lok Samta Party	Ceiling Fan
[18 ¹]		
[19 ²]		
20	Samajwadi Party (SP)	Bicycle
21	Shiv Sena (SS)	Bow and Arrow
22	Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI)	Spectacles
[23 ³]	Communist Marxist Party Central Council (CP John faction)	Star]
[24 ⁴]	Communist Marxist Party Kerala State Committee (Aravindakshan faction)	Television*]
[25 ⁵]	CPI (ML) Red star	Bell]
[26 ⁶]	Janadhipatya Samrakshana Samithi (Rajan Babu)	Jeep]
[27 ⁷]	Kerala Congress Secular	Electric Bulb]
[28 ⁸]	Marxist Communist Party of India (United)	Flag]
[29 ⁹]	Revolutionary Socialist Party (Marxist)	Book]
[30 ¹⁰]	Welfare Party of India	Gas Cylinder]
[31 ¹¹]	Rashtriya Lok Dal Party	Hand Pump]

¹ Deleted by notification No.48/2017/SEC, dated 11.05.2017.

² Deleted by ibid

³ Inserted by ibid

⁴ Inserted by ibid

* Frozen as per order No.35598/2020/SEC, dated 02.11.2020.

⁵ Inserted by ibid

⁶ Inserted by ibid

⁷ Inserted by ibid

⁸ Inserted by ibid

⁹ Inserted by ibid

¹⁰ Inserted by ibid

¹¹ Inserted by Notification No.268/2020/SEC dated 30.10.2020.

Table IV

FREE SYMBOLS FOR THE INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES WHICH INCLUDE THE SYMBOLS ALLOTTED TO REGISTERED UNRECOGNISED POLITICAL PARTIES HAVING NO MEMBER OR MEMBERS IN THE KERALA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OR IN ANY OF THE LOCAL SELF GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS IN THE STATE OF KERALA. SYMBOLS FROM THIS TABLE CAN BE ALLOTTED TO INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES WHERE NO CANDIDATES ARE SET UP BY THE REGISTERED UNRECOGNIZED POLITICAL PARTIES CONCERNED UNDER THIS TABLE.

Serial Number	Symbols
1	Almirah
2	Antenna
3	Apple*
4	Auto Rickshaw*
5	Axe
6	Balloon
[7 ¹]	
8	Bench
9	Black Board
[10 ²]	
11	Bottle
12	Briefcase
13	Brush
14	Bucket
15	Camera
16	Candles*
17	Car*
18	Carrom Board
19	Carrot
20	Cart
21	Chenda
22	Coat
23	Conch *
24	Cricket Bat
25	Cultivator Cutting Crop*

* Apple - Allotted to Kerala Janapaksham (Secular) on priority basis.

* Auto Rickshaw - Allotted to Akhila Kerala Trinamool Party on priority basis.

* Candles - Allotted to Kerala Revolutionary Socialist Party (Leninist - Marxist) on priority basis.

* Car - Allotted to Kerala Vikas Congress on priority basis.

* Conch - Allotted to Kerala Janapaksham on priority basis.

* Cultivator Cutting Crop - Allotted to Indian Justice Democratic Party on priority basis.

¹ Deleted by Notification No. 48/2017/SEC dated 11.05.2017.

² Deleted by ibid.

26	Cup and Saucer
27	Earthen Pot*
[28 ¹]	
29	Electric Switch
[30 ²]	
31	Flaming Torch *
32	Flute
33	Foot Ball*
[34 ³]	
35	Gas Stove
36	Grapes
[37 ⁵]	
38	Harmonium
39	Helmet
40	Hockey Stick & Ball
41	Hut*
42	Inkpot & Pen
43	Iron
[44 ⁴]	
45	Kettle
46	Kite*
47	Laptop*
48	Letter Box

- * Earthen Pot - Allotted to Loktantrik Janta Dal (LJD) on priority basis.
 * Flaming Torch - Allotted to Revolutionary Socialist Party of Kerala (Bolshevik) RSP(B) on priority basis.
 * Foot Ball - Allotted to Revolutionary Marxist Party of India (RMPI) on priority basis.
 * Hut - Allotted to Desceya Praja Socialist Party on priority basis.
 * Kite - Allotted to Bharatiya National Janata Dal on priority basis.
 * Laptop - Allotted to Kerala Congress (Skariah Thomas) on priority basis.
¹ Deleted by ibid
² Deleted by ibid
³ Deleted by ibid
⁴ Deleted by Notification No. 54/2017/SEC, dated 06.06.2017
⁵ Deleted by ibid

49	Mango*
50	Mobile Phone*
51	Pineapple
52	Pressure Cooker
53	Railway Engine*
54	Ring
55	Rose*
56	Scooter*
57	Rubber Stamp
58	Scissors
59	Sewing Machine*
60	Ship
61	Slate
[62 ¹]	
63	Stethoscope
64	Stool
65	Table
66	Table Fan
67	Table Lamp
68	Telephone*
[69 ²]	
70	Tennis Racket
71	Tom Tom
72	Top
73	Tree*
74	Trumpet
75	Two daos intersecting

- * Mango - Allotted to Twenty 20 Party on priority basis.
 * Mobile Phone - Allotted to Pravasi Nivasi Party on priority basis.
 * Railway Engine - Allotted to Social Action Party on priority basis.
 * Rose - Allotted to All India Samathuva Makkal Kakshi (AISMK) on priority basis.
 * Scooter - Allotted to Janadhipathiya Kerala Congress on priority basis.
 * Sewing Machine - Allotted to Republican Party of India (A) on priority basis.
 * Telephone - Allotted to Bharathiya Jana Shabdhi (BJS) on priority basis.
 * Tree - Allotted to Indian Labour Party (Ambedkar phule) on priority basis.
¹ Deleted by Notification No.48/2017/SEC, dated 11.05.2017.
² Deleted by Notification No.48/2017/SEC, dated 11.05.2017.

76	Two Swords and a shield*
77	Umbrella*
78	Violin
79	Water Pump
80	Water Tap
81	Whistle*
82	Window
83	Lock and Key*
84	Plough*

- * Two Swords and a Shield – Allotted to Hindustan National Party on priority basis.
- * Umbrella – Allotted to Secular National Dravida Party (SNDP) on priority basis.
- * Whistle – Allotted to Swaraj India Party on priority basis.
- * Lock and Key – Allotted to Republican Party of India on priority basis.
- * Plough – Allotted to Samajwadi Jana parishad (SYP) on priority basis.

V.BHASKARAN,
State Election Commissioner.

Annexure 5



STATE ELECTION COMMISSION, KERALA
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM-695 033

No.B1-33870/2020/SEC

Dated :26/11/2020

Guidelines for voting by Special Postal Ballot Papers for Covid19 Active Positive Electors and Electors in Quarantine.

1. Section 130A Kerala Municipality Act, 1994 and Section 74A of Kerala Panchayat Raj Act, 1994 (as amended) entitles the following two types of electors to vote by postal ballot paper:

- i. A person who is **active covid19 positive**.
- ii. A person who is **in quarantine**.

These electors are named as **special voters (SV)**. The postal ballot papers to be issued to these electors are called **special postal ballot papers (SPB)**.

2. Health & Family Welfare Department shall nominate Nodal Health Officers for electoral process at State, District and at Panchayat/ Municipality levels to facilitate COVID-19 related arrangements, and preventive measures during entire process till the completion of election process including for SPB related issues and voting by SVs at polling stations.

3. Health & Family Welfare Department has to nominate a designated health officer (**DHO**) in each district for certification of person who is either active covid19 positive or is in mandatory quarantine on the **determined days** as provided in point 5 below.

4. The authenticated list of Special voters prepared by **DHO** in each district is called **certified list (CL)** in **Form 19 A** of the Election Conduct Rules.

5. The **special voters (SV)** shall be included in CL as per the **determined days** as below and falling in two types:

- i. SVs appearing in the CLs from ten days before the day of the poll till 3 pm on the date prior to the poll. These

electors shall be allowed to vote **ONLY** by SPB, and **NOT** by direct voting at the polling stations.

- ii. SVs appearing in the CL after 3 pm prior to the day of poll till the end of the poll. These electors shall **NOT** be issued SPBs, and will be **PERMITTED** to cast their votes directly at the polling stations

6. Preparation of the Certified List of Special voters - The DHO in a district shall prepare the Certified list of Special voters housed in the district in **Form 19 A**, and deliver the first list to the **District Election Officer (DEO)** on the day which is ten days before the day of poll and daily lists thereafter for subsequent eight (8) days till 3 pm on the day prior to the poll. The first CL will comprise only those affected person who are covid19 active positive and are in quarantine on the determined day, and **NOT** those persons who have been declared covid19 negative and those who have completed the specified quarantine period before this day. The CLs for subsequent days till 3 pm of the day prior to the poll shall be additional new lists comprising the fresh names who would be certified covid19 positive and those who would be certified to undergo quarantine as per daily reports. A person undertaking self-quarantine without DHO certification shall **NOT** be included in the list of quarantine person in any CL.

- i. For Poll on **8th December in Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Pathanamthitta, Alappuzha and Idukki**- The first CL will be handed over to DEO by DHO as on **29th November**, and daily CLs from November 30th to 7th December till 3pm.

- ii. For Poll on 10th December in **Kottayam, Ernakulam, Thrissur, Palakkad and Wayanad**- The first CL will be handed over to DEO by DHO as on **1st December**, and daily CLs from December 2nd to 9th December till 3pm.

- iii. For Poll on 14th December in **Malappuram, Kozhikode, Kannur and Kasaragod**- The first CL will be handed over to DEO by DHO as on **5th December**, and daily CLs from November 6th to 13th December till 3pm.

NOTE: The SVs appearing in CLs till 3 pm on the day prior to the day of the poll is permitted to vote **ONLY** by postal ballot paper.

Even though there would be persons who appear in the CLs from ten days before the date of the election till 3 pm on the day prior to the day of the Poll and have subsequently been tested certified **negative** in the tests/ completed quarantine period during this period of 10 days, it is **reiterated** that once a person appears in the CL till 3 pm on the day prior to the day of the poll, he shall vote **ONLY** by postal ballot and **NOT** by direct voting at polling station.

7. DHOs shall be compiling CLs in **Form 19 A** from their records. A copy of the final electoral roll of the district with all additions will be made available by DEO immediately but **NOT** later than **27th November** to DHO to assist in drawing out the CLs. The electoral details and details of identity card prescribed by the State Election Commission in respect of SVs should be as far as possible collected from SVs directly. The details of SVs who are in hospitals shall provide the details directly to the authorized officers of DHOs; those SVs -active positive but housed at residences and other institutions should be contacted for their details. The persons in quarantine should be contacted through the established channels which is currently in use by government departments for tracing and tracking for the welfare and surveillance purposes. In every circumstance, SVs should directly be reached out for these details. It is **NOT** mandatory for DHO to provide all the details in the columns meant for electoral details. The Special cell in the office of DEO shall take measures to fill the information about the electoral details/ rectify the mistake, if any.

8. All CLs will be divided in two groups. The **Group-I** will have the SVs who are covid19 positive active and **Group-II** will comprise the names of SVs who are in quarantine.

9. All the CLs shall be prepared in two parts. The **Part-I** will comprise SVs housed in the district and registered as elector in the same district. The **Part-II** will comprise SVs housed in the district and registered as elector in another district. The **Part-II** list will be arranged district wise for immediate communication to the concerned other DEOs.

10. The entries of SVs in CLs shall be **arranged panchayat / municipality wise** to assist DEO for distribution among ROs.

11. All the CLs in **Group-II** of persons in quarantine shall be available for information of all and **displayed on the web site** of District collector and DEO/ District Medical Officers prominently for persons to check their names.

12. The certified lists of covid19 positive active cases should **NOT** be displayed in any public domain because of Health Department instruction.

13. **Special attention of DHOs and DEOs is required for CLs for Kottayam, Ernakulam, Thrissur, Palakkad, Wayanad, Malappuram, Kozhikode, Kannur and Kasaragod**- These districts are going to polls on either on 10th or 14th December. However, there may be covid19 active positive persons and persons in quarantine housed in these districts who are **registered electors from Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Pathanamthitta, Alappuzha and Idukki** where the polling is scheduled on 8th December. It is necessary that these persons are afforded the facility to vote by SPBs. Accordingly, the DHOs of Kottayam, Ernakulam, Thrissur, Palakkad, Wayanad, Malappuram, Kozhikode, Kannur and Kasaragod have to prepare the first CLs of their districts on 29th November and for subsequent dates till 7th December (**Part II of CLs**) comprising the names of the both groups of SVs - positive active & quarantine- who are housed in their districts but registered electors in **Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Pathanamthitta, Alappuzha and Idukki**. The DEOs of **these 9 districts** shall ensure that these CLs are communicated to the concerned other five (5) DEOs immediately upon receipt from DHOs **on the same day** and without any delay.

14. All DEOs will immediately set up dedicated cell with requisite infrastructure and manpower in the Election section of their office to plan the preparation of certified list, communication of the CLs to other districts and to the Returning Officers in their districts.

15. The dedicated cell in the office of DEO will have a copy of the final electoral roll with all additions to check the electoral detail entries in form 19 A as provided by DHOs. There are possibilities that DHOs will not be able to provide all electoral details in CLs. The dedicated cell shall complete all empty columns, if any, in

respect of electoral details before communicating the CLs to the ROs.

16. The DEO upon the receipt of every CL from DHO shall send the CLs immediately **on the same day** to all Returning Officers in the district.

17. In case SV appears in the CL of a district who is registered voter in another district in Part-II of the CL, the DEO should communicate Part II list to other DEOs where the voter is registered who in turn shall send such CLs to the concerned Returning Officers in his / her district on the same day itself.

18. The SPB shall be of the **same form and language** as the postal ballot paper for the voters on election duty.

19. The **system which is already devised in districts** for issue of postal ballot papers by ROs to other eligible electors for postal ballot paper (electors on election duty) shall be used for SPBs also.

20. The SVs have **two methods** for getting / receiving SPBs:

i. SVs have right to apply for postal ballot papers directly from concerned ROs. The application by SV has to be made in **form 19 D** along with a certificate for eligibility in **Form 19 C**. Form 19 C is a certificate issued by designated Health authority. Accordingly, all DHO should issue individual certificate to SV appearing in any of the CL prepared by them if requested by SV. The ROs upon receipt of such applications and after verifying the correctness of details in application and having being satisfied with the certificate shall follow the procedure for issue of the postal ballot paper as prescribed for in case of those persons on election duty.

ii. The SVs are provided with the facilities of SPBs solely because such electors are in isolation either under treatment or as a precaution, and are **NOT** permitted to move out of their present place of residences / housing. It is desirable for election machinery to undertake the additional responsibility to reach to such SVs to deliver their SPBs within time, and provide an option for SVs to send their polled SPBs in sealed cover to hand over to the RO for safe custody, **OR** SV may send the sealed cover containing SPB to the RO through the usual means provided as per Rule 23(3).

21. Assessment and printing of SPB - Each RO shall assess the requirement of SPBs for printing purpose on the day of finalisation of the list of contesting candidates for each constituency. The estimation can be based on the existing numbers of persons - positives and in quarantine as on that day, however, this may vary disproportionately on the determined days for compilations of CLs. The assistance of Health officials working in the area can be sought by RO to arrive on required numbers of SPBs.

22. DEOs have to make dedicated arrangement for delivery and collection of SPBs to the SVs in the following manner:

i. DEO should appoint a team of Special Polling officer (SPO) and Special polling assistant (SPA) where SPO should be not below the rank/level of the official qualified to be appointed as presiding officer for Polling in the State for the purpose of distribution and collection of SPBs to SVs. A care should, however, be taken while assigning the area for distribution by RO that SPO is a person **neither be the resident of the assigned area nor presently working in that area.**

ii. Number of teams to be appointed would depend on the number of SVs who figure in the list to vote by SPBs. Each RO will indicate his requirement to DEO for the purpose.

iii. The area in each constituency or combination of contiguous constituencies will be assigned and allotted by RO to such teams.

iv. RO after having assessed the total number of required SPBs for delivery depending upon the geographical spread/ locations of places of stay of SVs appearing in the list shall make arrangements for delivery of SPBs and required forms, and collection. The planning will be done in such a way that there is a single visit to each SV to deliver postal ballot papers and required forms, and collect the polled covers to be transported to the offices ROs to be kept in the safe custody.

v. The team shall visit the electors at the address mentioned in CLs provided by the DEO/RO for delivery, facilitating their voting by postal ballot paper, and collection of the polled

postal ballots. For this purpose, the RO shall issue **postal ballot papers along with counterfoils** to the SPO depending on the numbers of SVs whom the SPO is assigned to deliver SPBs, and a **working copy of electoral roll** part pertaining to the area assigned to the SPO. The team of SPOs should plan the visit in such a manner that the SVs included in the daily CLs are visited on the same day as far as possible.

- vi. The **SVs may be intimated, in advance**, about the date and approximate time of visit of poll officials if possible. Such intimation may be given through SMS and making call on the mobile phone number wherever the same had been mentioned in the CL.
- vii. The **contesting candidates shall be informed about the schedule of visit** for the delivery and collection of postal ballots for this category. They, **MAY**, if desire, depute their authorized representatives with prior intimation to the Returning Officer, to watch the process.
- viii. The list shall be divided for distribution among the different teams in such manner that each team get a list of persons in geographically compact area.
- ix. The visiting team shall on arrival to SV first should **seek consent of SV for delivery of SPB** and forms. If the SV refuses to accept the delivery of SPB, the same will be recorded by the team in the register and recorded in Form 19 B.
- x. If SV consents to receive the SPB and covers, the SPO shall obtain the signature of SV in **form 19B as requisition** and acknowledgment. SPO thereafter shall ascertain the identity of the elector before delivery SPB to SV.
- xi. Name of elector and the document produced for identification shall also be entered in a register, to be maintained for the purpose, and signature/thumb impression of the elector obtained therein. Further, a tick mark shall be placed against the name of the elector in the list to indicate that the person has voted and necessary entry for SPB shall be made in the working copy of electoral roll. The counterfoil with the serial number and part number of elector duly filled up shall be got detached and kept in safe custody by the team.
- xii. It shall be the responsibility of each team of polling officialsto

- Ø issue postal ballot to each of the SV assigned to it.
 - Ø brief the elector about the procedure to be followed for voting through postal ballot.
 - Ø make sure that the elector votes without anyone influencing his/her choice, and ensuring the secrecy of voting, all activities at the address of the elector concerned. However, if any elector is not able to cast vote by himself due to blindness or physical infirmity, he/she shall be allowed to take the assistance of any adult persons other than candidate or their agents for casting vote.
- xiii While briefing the electors about the procedure of voting and formalities to be observed on their part, the SPO shall clearly explain the following points to them:
- Ø Making the declaration in Form 16 and getting it attested by the SPO himself or by the attending medical officer if the SV is under treatment in government hospital
 - Ø Entering the serial number of postal ballot paper, both on Form and on the smaller envelope.
 - Ø Manner of marking vote, i.e. by placing either cross mark or tick mark against the name of the candidate of choice.
 - Ø Folding and placing the marked ballot in the smaller envelope and closing the envelope.
 - Ø Placing the declaration in Form 16, duly filled up, signed and attested along with closed envelope containing the marked ballot paper inside the larger envelope.
 - Ø Closing/ sealing the larger envelope.
 - Ø Handing over the same to the poll officer OR dispatching the sealed cover to the RO directly by post or any means prescribed for other class for voter eligible for postal ballot.

Xiv While explaining these procedures to the voter neither the SPO nor any of his team members should indulge in any act of canvassing the voters on behalf of any political party or contesting candidates

Xv **SPO is authorized to attest the declaration** in Form 16 in the case of SVs. While attesting the declaration, the SPO shall write his full name and also the designation 'poll officer'. In the case of SV on treatment in Hospital, the **Medical Officer attending** to the person also authorized to attest the declaration.

Xvi. After vote is cast on postal ballot and the envelope in Form is ready, the Poll Officials will **collect the same if agreed by SV**. A record of the delivery of polled SPB in sealed cover to the visiting team shall be handed over to the SV in a **pre-printed slip as acknowledgment** of the receipt of the polled SPB. If SV exercises his option NOT to handover the polled SPB in sealed cover to the visiting team, the same will be recorded in the register with the signature of the SV. In such a case SV has to send the sealed cover directly to RO as per Rule 23(3) of the Conduct of Election Rules. Even in such a case where SV decides to send his polled SPB directly, the declaration form shall be attested by the visiting SPO.

Xvii. Each team of polling officials should be provided with the list of such SVs adequate number of postal ballot papers with counterfoils, envelopes, pen, ink-pad (for thumb impression wherever required), glue stick for closing the envelopes, all the forms, printed acknowledgement slips, a sufficiently big canvas bag for keeping the envelopes of polled ballots and the counterfoils safely and other essential stationeries that may be considered necessary.

xviii. **Police Security cover** shall be provided to the SPO teams for their visits.

xix. RO should ensure that all the SVs included in the daily CL till 3.00 pm of the day prior to the day of poll are visited by the team of SPOs on that day itself.

xx. **It must be noted by DEOs/ROs/DHOs that any person who is covid19 positive or any person is in quarantine as certified in the records of Health Department on the determined days i.e. from ten days before the day of the poll and till 3pm on the day prior**

to the day of the poll is entitled to vote by postal ballot paper irrespective of the fact whether his/her name appears in the CLs. If such a request is received by a RO along with form 19 C and 19D, he shall be issued aSPB.

xxi The specific covid19 safeguard measures as infection control practices advised by health department for handling of papers items by the visiting team shall be followed which in general include:

Ø Keep all the forms in separate covers in respect of each SV after receipt and then double pack the cover.

Ø Shall receive the documents for election after wearing hand gloves

Ø After receiving the necessary documents practice hand hygiene.

Ø The ballot paper and other documents should be handled only by SPO and the voter.

Ø Provide the SPB, declaration and instruction document, the inner cover (forms and other supportive equipment like pen, gum etc. as a single packet to the SV)

Ø Deposit the sealed covers in the designated box in RO office.

xxii. Covid19 safeguard Instruction to the Special Voter:

Ø Shall fill the forms after sanitizing hand, wear mask

Ø Shall provide the filled forms in a sealed cover

Ø Receive the necessary voting items only i.e. - Ballot paper, declaration and instruction document,

the inner cover and other supportive equipment like pen, gum etc. as a single packet

Ø Handle the ballot paper and associated envelopes/covers/forms if any only after cleaning hands with soap and water / sanitizer. After casting vote enclose the entire items in the cover provided and conceal the cover.

Ø Sanitize the hand and keep the concealed cover outside the isolation room for dispatch through post/SPO.

xxiii For the SPO and team members, appropriate protection equipment including PPE kit shall be provided by the Health and Family Welfare Department. The team members should strictly adhere to/ follow the following health advisory during their visits and for this purpose each team must be provided the required materials. The team should use mask, gloves, face shield; maintain social distancing; follow Cough etiquette and respiratory hygiene. The team members shall also ensure to wash hands with soap and water/ sanitize the hands with hand sanitizer having 70% isopropyl alcohol before and after handing over the items to the SV. SPO shall provide the entire necessary item as a single packet and provide clear instructions regarding the handling of the items.

xxiv Deposit of envelopes containing sealed cover marked ballot papers and counterfoils:

a. At the end of each day of visit by SPO to the address of such SVs, the envelopes containing polled SPB covers, unused postal ballot paper etc. and the counterfoils of ballot papers containing the signature/ thumb impression of electors and other particulars, shall be collected by the RO or designated ARO for postal voting which shall be kept in safe custody and secure at the headquarters of the RO. The RO shall maintain the record indicating the number of ballots sent on each day through each team.

b. The records of issue of SPBs whether polled and returned through SPO or accepted retained by the SVs shall be checked with the registers and working copy of the electoral roll by the RO.

- c. The RO shall also indicate the entry "SPB" in the marked copy of the electoral against the names of such electors who have acknowledged the receipt of SPBs from SPO to show that a postal ballot paper has been issued to them, without however recording therein the Sl. No. of the ballot papers to them. The marked copy of the electoral roll is to be used by the presiding officer in the polling station.
- d. The RO shall also ensure that elector who has been issued postal ballot is not allowed to vote at a polling station.
- e. RO and designated AROs for SPBs shall earmark a designated place in their office or any other public office or at counting center which is notified to all contesting candidates in advance for safe custody of all SPBs received.
23. There shall **NOT** be any mechanism for delivery and collection of SPBs for SVs who appear in **Part II of a CL** of a district meaning thereby those SVs who are housed in a district other than where they are registered elector shall be issued SPB by ROs but will be dispatched with all forms by post to the place of the current housing as provided for in the CL received through DEO and such voters shall follow all instructions for marking their votes and sending the polled cover through any means as prescribed by the Commission as for persons on election duty.
24. RO shall make arrangement for issue, delivery and collection of SPBs to SVs who appear in the CLs till 3.00 pm on the day prior to the day of the Poll. The RO must ensure that under any circumstances **SPBs to be issued to SVs against requests received on that day in terms of para 20(1) should be issued & dispatched before 6.00 pm on the same day**
25. **The marked copy of electoral roll will be handed over to the presiding officer by the Returning Officer through special messenger or Sectorial Officer after recording all issued SPBs up to 6 pm on the day prior to the poll.**
26. A serious care shall be taken while handling the postal ballot papers dispatched by special voters even those received/ dispatched through department of post. These include washing hands with soap & water/ sanitize the hands with sanitizer with 70% isopropyl alcohol before and after dispatching or receiving the items, providing all necessary item as a single packet.

27. Voting by SV appearing in the CL **after 3 pm on the day prior to the day of poll are permitted/eligible** to vote directly at **polling stations during the last hour of the poll.**
28. The DHO shall issue a certificate in Form 19 C to such SV individually on demand instantly and should ensure that the certificate is reached to SV by any means on the same day and without any delay.
29. The SV under treatment in hospital controlled by the Government shall be assisted by Health department with the assistance of DEO to reach the designated polling station to cast their votes in the last hour of the poll.
30. SVs staying at any place other than Government hospital shall reach polling station to exercise their vote by themselves. They should not stop in between the travel from home to polling station. The driver should also wear PPE Kit while taking the patient. There should not be any bystander accompanying the patient in the same vehicle.
31. **SVs will vote at the polling station after all other ordinary voters waiting in queue and/ having token to have reached within stipulated hours of polls to vote have finished their voting.**
32. Polling Staff, polling agents and all SVs shall wear full PPE kits to be provided by Health & Family Welfare Department while SVs are inside the polling stations.
33. In case of any worsening of symptoms of any such SV, there shall be arrangements by Health & Family Welfare Department for liaison with the nearest CFLTC/ Covid19 Hospital.
34. **All the prescribed procedure for voting ordinarily in a polling station shall be applicable for voting by SVs in polling station for identification, application of indelible ink etc. SVs should not be allowed to touch EVMs without hand gloves; and separate pen shall be used by each SV for signing in the Voter Register.**

A. Santhosh
Secretary

Political Fronts & Parties

Party Group	Party Code	Part Name
Left Democratic Front (LDF)	CPI	Communist Party of India
Left Democratic Front (LDF)	CPI(M)	Communist Party of India (Marxist)
Left Democratic Front (LDF)	NCP	Nationalist Congress Party
Left Democratic Front (LDF)	JD(S)	Janathadal (Secular)
Left Democratic Front (LDF)	KC(M)	Kerala Congress (M)
Left Democratic Front (LDF)	CON(S)	Congress (Secular)
Left Democratic Front (LDF)	INL	Indian National League (INL)
Left Democratic Front (LDF)	KC(B)	Kerala Congress (B)
Left Democratic Front (LDF)	LJD	Lokthanthrik Janathadal
Left Democratic Front (LDF)	KC(ST)	Kerala Congress (Skaria Thomas)
Left Democratic Front (LDF)	JKC	Janadhipathya Kerala Congress
United Democratic Front (UDF)	INC	Indian National Congress
United Democratic Front (UDF)	IUML	Indian Union Muslim League
United Democratic Front (UDF)	RSP	Revolutionary Socialist Party
United Democratic Front (UDF)	AIFB	All India Forward Block
United Democratic Front (UDF)	CMP	Communist Marxist Party (C.M.P)
United Democratic Front (UDF)	KC(Jacob)	Kerala Congress (Jacob)
United Democratic Front (UDF)	BNJD	Bharathiya National Janatha dal
National Democratic Alliance (NDA)	BJP	Bharathiya Janatha Party
National Democratic Alliance (NDA)	KC	Kerala Congress
National Democratic Alliance (NDA)	SS	Siva Sena (S.S)
National Democratic Alliance (NDA)	BDJS	Bharath Dhamrajana Sena Party
National Democratic Alliance (NDA)	DSJP	Democratic Social Justice Party
National Democratic Alliance (NDA)	KKC	Kerala Kamraj Congress
Others	BSP	Bahujan Samaj Party
Others	AITC	All India Trinamul Congress
Others	AAP	Aam Aadmi Party (A.A.P)
Others	AIADMK	All India Anna D.M.K
Others	JSS	Janadhipathya Samrakshana Samithi (J.S.S)
Others	JD(U)	Janathadal (United)
Others	LJP	Lokha Janasakthi Party (L.J.P)
Others	NSC	National Secular Conference
Others	PDP	Peoples Democratic Party (P.D.P)
Others	RJD	Rashtriya Janathadal
Others	RLSP	Rashtriya Lok Samatha Party
Others	SP	Samajvadi Party (S.P)
Others	SDPI	Social Democratic Party of India (S.D.P.I)

Others	CMPCC(CPJ)	Communist Marxist Party Central Council (C.P.John)
Others	CMKSC(A)	Communist Marxist Kerala State Committee (Aravindakshan)
Others	CPI(ML)	C.P.I (ML) Red Star
Others	JSS(RB)	Janadhipathya Samrakshana Samithi (Rajan Babu)
Others	KC(Secular)	Kerala Congress Secular
Others	MCPI(U)	Marxist Communist Party of India (United)
Others	RSP(M)	Revolutionary Socialist Party (Marxist)
Others	WPI	Welfare Party of India
Others	RLDP	Rashtriya Lokdal Party
Others	IND	Swathanthran
Others	KJ(Secular)	Kerala Janapaksham (Secular)
Others	TT	Twenty-Twenty
Others	KJ	Kerala Janapaksham
Others	AKTP	Akhila Kerala Trinamul Party
Others	RSP(LM)	Revolutionary Socialist Party (Leninist-Marxist)
Others	KVC	Kerala Vikas Congress
Others	IUDP	Indian Justice Democratic Party
Others	RSP(B)	Revolutionary Socialist Party of Kerala (Bolshevik)
Others	DPSP	Deshiya Praja Socialist Party
Others	PNP	Pravasi Nivasi Party
Others	SJP	Samaj Vadhi Jana Parishath (SJP)
Others	SAP	Social Action Party
Others	AISMK	All India Samathva Makka! Kachi (AISMK)
Others	RPI(A)	Republican Party of India (A)
Others	BJS	Bharathiya Jana Shabd (BJS)
Others	ILP(AF)	Indian Labour Party (Ambedkar Phule)
Others	HNP	Hindustan National Party
Others	SNDP	Secular National Dravide Party (SNDP)
Others	SIP	Swaraj India Party
Others	BSLP	Bharathiya Sub Lok Party
Others	RPI	Republican Party of India
Others	CMP(MAF)	Communist Marxist Party (M. Ajeeb Faction)
Others	ADHRMPTI	Anna Democratic Human Rights Movement Party of India
Others	MLPI[RF]	Marxist Leninist Party of India (Red Flag)
Others	RMPI	Revolutionary Marxist Party of India
Others	CMP(MVRF)	Communist Marxist Party (M.V. Rajesh Faction)
Others	SRP	Socialist Republican Party
Others	SPFB	Samajwadi Forward Block
Others	ICSP	Indian Christain Secular Party
Others	BDJS(Subhash Vasu Faction)	Bharat Dharma Jana Sena (Subhash Vasu)
Others	CMPAJFEB	Communist Marxist Party (C.M.P) Ajeeb
Others	KC	Kerala Congress
Others	DSJP	Democratic Social Justice Party

No. of Seats Contested & Won (Gender wise)

Local Body	Male		Female		Transgender	
	Contested	Won	Contested	Won	Contested	Won
Grama Panchayat	26012	7159	28292	8804	0	0
Block Panchayat	3393	945	3539	1135	0	0
District Panchayat	685	157	597	174	0	0
Municipality	5186	1399	5158	1679	0	0
Corporation	993	189	980	225	1	0

No. of seats won by Political Parties (Gender wise)**Block Panchayat**

Front	Party	Male	Female	Total
LDF	CPI	91	120	211
LDF	CPI(M)	427	534	961
LDF	INL	2	1	3
LDF	JD(S)	6	5	11
LDF	JKC	3		3
LDF	KC(M)	23	27	50
LDF	LJD	5	8	13
LDF	NCP	6	9	15
NDA	BJP	19	18	37
OTH	IND	14	22	36
OTH	RMPI	1	1	2
OTH	SDPI	1		1
OTH	TT	4	5	9
UDF	INC	240	239	479
UDF	IUML	90	114	204
UDF	KC(Jacob)	1	5	6
UDF	KC(M)PJJ	12	23	35

Grama Panchayat

Front	Party	Male	Female	Total
LDF	CPI	341	544	885
LDF	CPI(M)	2623	3325	5948
LDF	INL	7	7	14
LDF	JD(S)	23	26	49
LDF	JKC	5	9	14
LDF	KC(B)	8	8	16
LDF	KC(M)	124	133	257
LDF	LJD	18	36	54
LDF	NCP	11	14	25
NDA	BJP	538	643	1181
OTH	BSP	1		1
OTH	CMPCC(CPJ)	1	2	3
OTH	IND	609	818	1427
OTH	KJ(Secular)	3	5	8
OTH	PDP	2	2	4
OTH	RMPI	7	8	15
OTH	SDPI	37	38	75
OTH	TT	15	49	64
OTH	WPI	7	15	22
UDF	BNJD	3	2	5
UDF	INC	1999	2200	4199
UDF	IUML	686	772	1458
UDF	KC(Jacob)	10	8	18
UDF	KC(M)PJJ	67	111	178
UDF	RSP	14	24	38

District Panchayat

Front	Party	Male	Female	Total
LDF	CPI	18	28	46
LDF	CPI(M)	66	76	142
LDF	JD(S)	1	4	5
LDF	KC(M)	6	5	11
LDF	LJD	4	2	6
LDF	NCP	3		3
NDA	BJP	1	1	2
OTH	IND	3		3
OTH	KJ(Secular)	1		1
OTH	TT	1	1	2
UDF	INC	33	33	66
UDF	IUML	17	19	36
UDF	KC(M)PJJ	2	5	7
UDF	RSP	1		1

Corporation

Front	Party	Male	Female	Total
LDF	CON(S)	1	1	2
LDF	CPI	15	13	28
LDF	CPI(M)	83	87	170
LDF	INL	1		1
LDF	LJD	1		1
NDA	BJP	24	35	59
OTH	IND	11	13	24
UDF	INC	45	49	94
UDF	IUML	6	15	21
UDF	RSP	2	3	5

Municipality

Front	Party	Male	Female	Total
LDF	CON(S)	2	1	3
LDF	CPI	54	59	113
LDF	CPI(M)	433	539	972
LDF	INL	8	3	11
LDF	JD(S)	1	3	4
LDF	JKC	2		2
LDF	KC(B)	3	4	7
LDF	KC(M)	20	16	36
LDF	LJD	7	7	14
LDF	NCP	2	2	4
NDA	BJP	117	200	317
NDA	KC	2		2
NDA	LJP	1		1
OTH	CMPCQ(CPJ)	1	1	2
OTH	IND	163	220	383
OTH	NSC	2	2	4
OTH	PDP	1		1
OTH	RMPI	1	2	3
OTH	SDPI	8	10	18
OTH	WPI	3	2	5
UDF	INC	338	379	717
UDF	IUML	210	204	414
UDF	KC(Jacob)	4	1	5
UDF	KC(M)PJJ	15	19	34
UDF	RSP	1	3	4

Annexure 8

Vote Share of Political Parties (State Wise)

Block Panchayat

Front	Party	Votes
INVD/UN Vote	INVD/UN Vote	26719
LDF	CON(S)	11954
LDF	CPI	1152837
LDF	CPI(M)	5112076
LDF	INL	64588
LDF	JD(S)	75112
LDF	JKC	27546
LDF	KC(B)	7886
LDF	KC(M)	283948
LDF	LJD	100011
LDF	NCP	101155
NDA	BDJS	14644
NDA	BJP	2426737
NDA	KC	1259
NDA	KKC	7051
NDA	LJP	888
NDA	SS	825
OTH	AAP	3485
OTH	ADHRMPI	3091
OTH	AIADMK	3210
OTH	BSP	7627
OTH	CMP(MAF)	313
OTH	CMPCC(CPJ)	12477
OTH	CPI(ML)	793
OTH	IND	692749
OTH	JSS	301
OTH	KJ(Secular)	13440
OTH	MCPI(U)	191
OTH	PDP	13236
OTH	RMPI	11810
OTH	RSP(LM)	3854
OTH	SDPI	87627
OTH	SIP	779
OTH	TT	43774
OTH	WPI	26179
UDF	AIFB	150
UDF	BNJD	12599
UDF	INC	4897024
UDF	IUML	1329459
UDF	KC(Jacob)	35623
UDF	KC(M)PJJ	219577
UDF	RSP	54688

Grama Panchayat

Front	Party	Votes
INVD/UN Vote	INVD/UN Vote	22134
LDF	CON(S)	3104
LDF	CPI	795057
LDF	CPI(M)	4769374
LDF	INL	34567
LDF	JD(S)	48391
LDF	JKC	15430
LDF	KC(B)	13438
LDF	KC(M)	210231
LDF	KC(ST)	1216
LDF	LJD	65956
LDF	NCP	34912
NDA	BDJS	11381
NDA	BJP	2240326
NDA	KC	261
NDA	KKC	670
NDA	LJP	522
NDA	SS	1120
OTH		17
OTH	AAP	1488
OTH	ADHRMPI	981
OTH	AIADMK	3193
OTH	BSP	122
OTH	BSP	6191
OTH	CMP(MAF)	49
OTH	CMPAJEEB	24
OTH	CMPCC(CPJ)	7650
OTH	CPI(ML)	88
OTH	DSJP	92
OTH	UDP	5
OTH	IND	2325585
OTH	JD(U)	13
OTH	JSS	684
OTH	KC(Secular)	62
OTH	KJ	72
OTH	KJ(Secular)	10711
OTH	MCPI(U)	242
OTH	MLPJ(RF)	1090
OTH	NSC	590
OTH	PDP	10382
OTH	PNP	159
OTH	RJD	60
OTH	RMPI	15830
OTH	RPI	39
OTH	RSP(LM)	1082
OTH	SDPI	153661
OTH	SIP	1326
OTH	SP	432
OTH	SRP	101
OTH	TT	45584
OTH	WPI	32198
UDF	AIFB	223
UDF	BNJD	4563
UDF	INC	4507616
UDF	IUML	1281824
UDF	KC(Jacob)	15139
UDF	KC(M)PJJ	146109
UDF	RSP	47315

District Panchayat

Front	Party	Votes
INVD/UN Vote	INVD/UN Vote	35765
LDF	CON(S)	33141
LDF	CPI	1289980
LDF	CPI(M)	4500511
LDF	INL	113968
LDF	JD(S)	157195
LDF	KC(B)	36175
LDF	KC(M)	498115
LDF	LJD	270780
LDF	NCP	118614
NDA	BDJS	22282
NDA	BJP	2397861
NDA	KC	2727
NDA	KKC	12145
NDA	SS	1635
OTH	AAP	9114
OTH	ADHRMPI	9308
OTH	AIADMK	2673
OTH	BSP	35463
OTH	CMP(MAF)	298
OTH	CMP(MVRF)	784
OTH	CMPAJEEB	1279
OTH	CMPCC(CPJ)	70801
OTH	CPI(ML)	1143
OTH	IND	543782
OTH	JSS	408
OTH	KJ(Secular)	27665
OTH	PDP	19886
OTH	RJD	605
OTH	RMPI	23045
OTH	RPI	250
OTH	RSP(LM)	17826
OTH	SDPI	88039
OTH	SPFB	450
OTH	SRP	147
OTH	TT	41845
OTH	WPI	25694
UDF	AIFB	18200
UDF	BNJD	11616
UDF	INC	4299497
UDF	IUML	1541456
UDF	KC(Jacob)	43208
UDF	KC(M)PJJ	400011
UDF	RSP	148247

Corporation

Front	Party	Votes
INVD/UN Vote	INVD/UN Vote	1003
LDF	CON(S)	7383
LDF	CPI	74264
LDF	CPI(M)	452165
LDF	INL	7989
LDF	JD(S)	11261
LDF	KC(M)	6113
LDF	LJD	10420
LDF	NCP	8507
NDA	BDJS	1909
NDA	BJP	340014
NDA	KC	1467
NDA	KKC	1647
NDA	SS	10
OTH	AAP	747
OTH	ADHRMPI	59
OTH	AIADMK	169
OTH	BSP	568
OTH	CMP(MAF)	31
OTH	CMPCC(CPJ)	7001
OTH	CPI(ML)	10
OTH	DSJP	135
OTH	IND	166341
OTH	JD(U)	38
OTH	JSS	1219
OTH	KJ(Secular	155
OTH	MLPI[RF]	619
OTH	PDP	3076
OTH	RMPI	50
OTH	RSP(LM)	1737
OTH	SDPI	14293
OTH	SNDP	47
OTH	WPI	840
UDF	AIFB	726
UDF	BNJD	108
UDF	INC	377688
UDF	IUML	68740
UDF	KC(Jacob)	1354
UDF	KC(M)PJJ	4962
UDF	RSP	18271

Municipality

Front	Party	Votes
INVD/UN Vote	INVD/UN Vote	2274
LDF	CON(S)	4691
LDF	CPI	95152
LDF	CPI(M)	694199
LDF	INL	17059
LDF	JD(S)	7157
LDF	JKC	1612
LDF	KC(B)	2965
LDF	KC(M)	30531
LDF	KC(ST)	744
LDF	LJD	12614
LDF	NCP	5812
NDA	BDJS	2145
NDA	BJP	382259
NDA	KC	601
NDA	KKC	566
NDA	LJP	536
NDA	SS	52
OTH	AAP	711
OTH	ADHRMPI	53
OTH	BSP	253
OTH	CMP(MVRF)	20
OTH	CMPCC(CPJ)	2502
OTH	CPI(ML)	39
OTH	DSJP	15
OTH	IND	499146
OTH	JD(U)	16
OTH	JSS	612
OTH	KJ(Secular	175
OTH	MLPI[RF]	346
OTH	NSC	6108
OTH	PDP	3261
OTH	PNP	35
OTH	RJD	31
OTH	RMPI	1804
OTH	RPI(A)	15
OTH	SDPI	30091
OTH	SPFB	4
OTH	WPI	6096
UDF	AIFB	248
UDF	BNJD	739
UDF	INC	652462
UDF	IUML	299777
UDF	KC(Jacob)	3886
UDF	KC(M)PJJ	25783
UDF	RSP	4965



Staff of State Election Commission, Kerala