By Speed Post/Email

भारत निर्वाचन आयोग
ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

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निर्वाचन सदन
अशोक रोड, नई दिल्ली–110001
Nirvachan Sadan
Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001

No.576/14/2026/EPS

Dated: 16th March, 2026

To

1. The Chief Secretaries of
   Assam, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Puducherry
2. The Chief Electoral Officers of
   Assam, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Puducherry

Subject: General Elections to Legislative Assemblies of Assam, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Puducherry, 2026 - **DRY DAY** - regarding.

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the subject cited and to apprise that the Commission has announced the General Elections to Legislative Assemblies of Assam, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and UT of Puducherry, 2026 vide Press Note No. ECI/PN/029/2026 dated 15.03.2026 available on the Commission's website under URL https://www.eci.gov.in/issue-details-page/press-releases

2. The date of Poll in States of Assam, Kerala and UT of Puducherry has been fixed on **09.04.2026(Thursday).** The date of poll in State of Tamil Nadu has been fixed on **23.04.2026(Thursday).** The dates of Poll in State of West Bengal have been fixed on **23.04.2026(Thursday)** and **29.04.2026(Wednesday).** The Counting of Votes in all the poll going States and UT shall be taken on **04.05.2026(Monday).**

3. In this regard, your attention is invited to Section 135C of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 which provides that no spirituous, fermented or intoxicating liquor or other substances of like nature shall be sold, given or distributed at a hotel, eating house, tavern, shop or any other place, public or private, within a polling area during the period of forty-eight hours ending with the hour fixed for the conclusion of poll for any election in the polling area.

4. In view of the statutory provision as above, **'Dry day'** shall be declared and notified under the relevant State/Union Territory laws as is appropriate during 48 hours, ending with the hours fixed for conclusion of poll with respect to polling day for an election in that polling area where General Election to Legislative Assembly is being held. This will include the date of re-poll, if any.

5. The Commission further directs that **the date on which Counting of votes is to be taken up i.e. 04.05.2026(Monday) shall also be declared 'Dry Day'** under the relevant laws in poll going State/UT.

6. No liquor shops, hotels, restaurants, clubs and other establishments selling or serving liquor shall be permitted to sell/ serve liquor to anyone whosoever, on the aforesaid days.

7. Non-proprietary clubs, star hotels, restaurants etc. and hotels functioning under different categories of licenses for possession and supply of liquor, shall not be permitted to serve liquor on these days.

8. The storage of liquor by individuals shall be curtailed during the above period and the restrictions provided in the excise law on the storage of liquor in unlicensed premises shall be vigorously enforced.

9. In view of above, the Commission hereby directs that the State/UT Government shall strictly implement the above measures and issue detailed and comprehensive instructions to all concerned authorities to take appropriate and legally effective measures to implement the above prohibitions and assist the election authorities in peaceful and smooth conduct of free and fair poll.

The receipt of this letter may kindly be acknowledged.

Yours faithfully

16/3/2026

(SANJEEV KUMAR PRASAD)
SECRETARY