By Speed Post/Email

भारत निर्वाचन आयोग
ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

Tel. No. 011-23052144
Fax 011-23052001
Website: www.eci.gov.in

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
   Goa, Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Nagaland and Tripura
2. The Chief Electoral Officers of
   Goa, Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Nagaland and Tripura

Subject: Bye-Elections to Assembly Constituencies of various States, 2026 - **DRY DAY** - regarding.

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the subject cited and to apprise that the Commission has announced the Bye-elections to Assembly Constituencies of Goa, Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Nagaland and Tripura vide Press Note No. ECI/PN/030/2026 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 the Assembly Constituencies going for by-polls in States of Goa, Karnataka, Nagaland and Tripura has been fixed on **09.04.2026(Thursday)** and the date of poll for Assembly Constituencies of Gujarat and Maharashtra going for by-polls has been fixed on **23.04.2026(Thursday).**

The date of counting of votes in all the Assembly Constituencies has been fixed 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 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 Bye-election to Assembly Constituency 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.

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 Government shall strictly implement the above measures and shall 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 to ensure peaceful and smooth conduct of poll.

The receipt of this letter may kindly be acknowledged.

Yours faithfully

16/3/2026

(SANJEEV KUMAR PRASAD)
SECRETARY