

DIRECTIONS/INSTRUCTIONS ISSUED FOR FREE & FAIR CONDUCT OF BY-ELECTIONS

Panaji: August 21, 2017

The Election Commission has issued various instructions for the conduct of free and fair election for the Bye-Elections to the two vacant seats, namely 11-Panaji and 19-Valpoi constituencies scheduled to be held on August 23, 2017 from 8 :00 a.m to 5:00 p.m. The Modal Code of Conduct is in force w.e.f July 27, 2017.

The Government of Goa under Goa Excise Duty Act 1964 has notified that no liquor shall be transported from one place to another within the jurisdiction of 11-Panaji and 19-Valpoi Constituencies.

The maximum quantity of liquor that can be possessed by any person within the said areas is three quart bottles of Indian made foreign liquor other than beer and six bottles of beer of 650 ml for any person including his family. Three quart bottles of country liquor for any person including his family.

The aforesaid instruction will be enforced from 5.00 p.m. of August 21, 2017 till intervening midnight of August 23, 2017 and August 24, 2017 in view of polling and from 00.00 hrs of August 28, 2017 to 0.00 hrs of August 29, 2017 on account of counting of votes within jurisdiction of 11-Panaji and 19-Valpoi Constituencies for Bye election. These directions are also for all licensed premises for the sale of liquor located within the jurisdiction of the said Assembly Constituencies.

However, the licensed premises having license for Bar and Restaurant are allowed to keep the restaurant open for serving food only and the Bar counter shall be closed and no liquor shall be allowed to be served on the above mentioned days by displaying a board in the premises to these effect.

The Government of Goa has also ordered that during the day of the poll viz from 6.00 hrs to midnight on August 23, 2017 .

All Hotels, Restaurants, Bars, Tea shops, Pan shops, Eateries and other Food shops/joints (dhabas, gaddas) etc., within the vicinity of 200 meters of any polling stations are directed to remain closed to avoid their misuse for campaigning or intimidation of voters or influencing voters.

Gathering or crowd comprising of more than 5 persons within 200 meters of any polling station is also prohibited to avoid occurrence of any law and order problem.

The contesting candidates who are permitted to use vehicles for campaigning shall also not ply on roads so as to avoid any distribution of money or gifts of liquor and to prevent any nuisance and law and order problems, except the vehicles authorized by the Returning officer, DEO and CEO on the day of poll.

All private vehicles will be checked in a dignified manner to avoid their misuse for distribution of money or gifts or liquor and for causing any nuisance to avoid any harassment to private person.

The Government has declared Wednesday, August 23, 2017 (Bhadra 1, 1939) under Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881 as a public holiday for the offices situated within the limits of 11-Panaji and 19- Valpoi Assembly Constituencies being the polling day for the bye election to the two Assembly Constituencies.

This holiday will be paid holiday for the State Government employees, industrial workers, daily wage workers of Government Department and State Government industrial department, commercial and industrial workers of private establishments, all employees of private establishment, daily wage/casual workers employed in any business, trade, industrial undertakings or any other establishment who are voters to these two Assembly Constituencies. If any queries the employee may contact the nodal officer Catherine Pereira, Labour Inspector on his mobile no 8308664425 or on CEO Office Toll Free No 1950

Electors who have been issued EPIC will have to produce the EPIC for their identification at the polling station before casting their votes. Those electors who are not able to produce the EPIC will have to produce one of the alternative photo identify documents such as passport, Driving License, Service Identity Cards with photograph issued to employees by Central/State Government, PSUs/Public Limited Companies; Passbooks with photograph issued by Bank/Post Office, PAN Card, Smart Card issued by RGI under NPR, MINREGA Job Card, Health Insurance Smart Card issued under the scheme of Ministry of Labour, Pension document with photograph, Authenticated Photo Voter Slip issued by the election machinery and Official identity cards issued to MPs/MLAs/MLCs and Aadhar Card for establishing their identity.

It is also informed that clerical errors on EPIC, spelling mistakes, etc should be ignored provided the identity of the elector can be established by the EPIC.