

STATE ELECTION COMMISSION
3rd Floor, Elections Department Complex,
Villianur Main Road, Reddiarpalayam, Puducherry – 605 010.

Puducherry, Dated 22-09-2021

PRESS RELEASE

As per the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, in Contempt Petition (C) Diary No. 2364 of 2021 in Civil Appeal Nos. 4994-4995 of 2018 dt.05.04.2021, the State Election Commission, Puducherry has scheduled the Civic Elections for the following posts comprised in the Five Municipalities and Ten Commune Panchayats of the Union Territory of Puducherry to be held in three phases.

Elections to Municipalities		Elections to Commune Panchayats		
Chairperson Of Municipalities	Councillor of Municipal Wards	Commune Panchayat Council Wards	Village Panchayat Presidents	Village Panchayat Ward Members
5	116	108	108	812

Out of the above posts for which elections are scheduled, reservations for seats/posts have been made on the basis of the provisions of Articles 243D & 243T of Indian Constitution, Pondicherry Municipalities (Allotment and Rotation of Reserved Seats and Offices) Rules, 1996, Pondicherry Village and Commune Panchayats (Allotment and Rotation of Reserved Seats and Offices) Rules, 1996 and the various Government orders issued by the Government of Puducherry. The details of posts reserved are as follows:

Reservation of Posts

Details of election	SC	SC (Women)	ST	ST (Women)	General (Women)	BC	General	Total
Municipalities								
1) Chairperson	1	-	-	-	2	-	2	5
2) Councilors	6	6	1	-	34	39	30	116
Commune Panchayats								
1) Commune Panchayat Council Wards	17	9	1	-	30	37	14	108
2) Village Panchayat Presidents	12	5	-	-	31	-	60	108
3) Village Panchayat Ward Members	121	71	2	2	230	272	114	812

Local bodies' elections are being conducted in the UT of Puducherry after a gap of fifteen years and are being planned in three phases:

	I Phase	II Phase	III Phase
Municipality	Karaikal	Pondicherry	-
	Mahe	Oulgaret	-
	Yanam	-	-
Commune Panchayats	Kottucherry	-	Ariyankuppam
	Nedungadu	-	Bahour
	Neravy	-	Mannadipet
	Thirumalairayanpattinam	-	Nettapakkam
	Thirunallar	-	Villianur
No of Polling Stations	364	631	634
Total No.of Voters	230502	444199	328555

Following is the break-up of numbers of Seats and Offices in each phase:

	Municipality		Commune Panchayats			Total no. of posts
	Chairman	Councillors	Commune Panchayat Council Members	Village Panchayat Presidents	Village Panchayat Ward Members	
Phase -I	3	41	27	27	178	276
Phase - II	2	75	-	-	-	77
Phase -III	-	-	81	81	634	796
Total	5	116	108	108	812	1149

Counting of votes will be carried out in seven (07) counting centres (Mahe - 1, Yanam - 1, Karaikal - 1 & Puducherry - 4) . The Commission has already appointed 15 Returning Officers and 91 Assistant Returning Officers to conduct the elections in the Union Territory of Puducherry. This Commission has also appointed District Collector, Puducherry and District Collector, Karaikal as District Election Officers for the respective regions. Likewise, the Regional Administrators of Mahe and Yanam have been appointed as the Regional Election Officers for their respective regions. The State Election Commission has also appointed four Secretaries to the Commission for the purpose of effective supervision and coordination of elections to Municipalities and Panchayats. Further, the Commission has appointed six senior IAS officers as General Observers for this election, besides six expenditure observers from other Central Services.

To conduct the Local Body Elections, 1629 Polling Stations have been identified wherein about 8500 officers will be deployed for conduct of polls in a free, fair and transparent manner. There are 10, 03, 256 voters who will exercise their franchise, of which 5,84,196 are from the five Municipalities and 4,19,060 from the 10 Commune Panchayats. For the first time, the Multipost Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) are going to be used in Civic polls in the U.T of Puducherry. The State Election Commission has kept the EVMs ready for the elections. The First Level of Checking of the EVMs is over, and their further Randomization and immediate despatch to the Returning Officers have been planned.

The State Election Commission is requesting Covid Appropriate Behaviour in the Civic polls in line with the guidelines/ SOPs of Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW), Government of Puducherry and Puducherry State Disaster Management Committee. The Candidates/ Electors shall compulsorily sanitize their hands and wear masks before entry into any office in connection with the Civic Elections and maintain social distancing. In order to restrict overcrowding as well as for facilitating the Covid patients for filing of nominations, "Online Nomination" filing facility is being provided. Further, a change is being introduced in the method of Distribution and Collection back of EVMs and election materials to the Polling Stations. The EVMs and the election materials will be delivered directly to each Polling Station by the Sector Officers with armed escort to avoid crowding of polling officials at the distribution centres on the pre-poll day and will be collected back after the poll in a similar fashion.

Schedule of Elections

	I PHASE	II PHASE	III PHASE
Date of notification of election/Start of Filing of Nomination	30-09-2021	04-10-2021	07-10-2021
Last date for filing nomination	07-10-2021	11-10-2021	15-10-2021
Scrutiny of nomination	08-10-2021	12-10-2021	16-10-2021
Last date for withdrawal of candidature	11-10-2021	15-10-2021	18-10-2021
Poll day	21-10-2021	25-10-2021	28-10-2021

After poll for the three phases, the Counting for all the phases will be on:31-10-2021

The polling hours will be 7.00 A.M to 6.00 P.M with last one hour i.e., 5.00 P.M to 6.00 P.M being ear-marked for Covid Patients and patients with symptoms.

With this announcement **The Model Code of Conduct comes into force with immediate effect from today.** The Model Code of Conduct, Laws on the conduct of Local Bodies Elections and the relevant information of Electoral Rolls, Polling Stations, the contact details of DEOs, REOs, ROs, AROs and other officials of the State Election Commission are available on the Commission's website: <https://sec.py.gov.in>. State Election Commission appeal to the media, electors, candidates, and their agents/workers and all officials involved to take the COVID-19 vaccine, first or second dose as applicable, for taking part in Local Bodies Elections 2021. Further, as a precautionary measure to prevent Covid outbreaks, Commission is banning processions/road shows/street plays and cycle/bike/vehicle rallies. Public meetings and house-to-house campaigning will be allowed with strict restrictions. In addition, since these elections are at the grass-roots level, the Commission has restricted the period of campaigning to the shortest permissible by the relevant Act/Rules.

The announcement of schedule for elections to the indirect elections for the following seats: i) Vice-Chairman of the Municipalities, ii) Chairman of the Commune Panchayat Council, iii) Vice-Chairman of the Commune Panchayat Council and iv) Vice-President of the

Village Panchayat in Commune Panchayats will be released after the declaration of the results of the direct elections in the Municipalities and Commune Panchayats.

The details of seats for the indirect elections, which will be held later, are as follows:

Name of the Seat	Vice-Chairman of Municipalities	Chairman of the Commune Panchayat Council	Vice-Chairman of the Commune Panchayat Council	Vice-President of Village Panchayat
No. of Posts	5	10	10	108

Above announcement and all further actions in the election process are in compliance with the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India and as per the powers vested with the State Election Commission by Articles 243 K and 243 ZA of the Constitution of India.

The Commission requests the cooperation of all stakeholders for the safe and smooth conduct of the civic elections.

ROY P THOMAS
STATE ELECTION COMMISSIONER