

EC agrees to parties' pleas, postpones bypolls for 14 Assembly seats to Nov. 20

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

The Election Commission of India on Monday rescheduled byelections in 14 Assembly constituencies in three States from November 13 to 20.

A statement from the commission said the date had been revised for nine seats in Uttar Pradesh, four in Punjab and one in Kerala.

The commission, it said, had received representations from political parties, including the Bharatiya Janata Party and the Congress, seeking a change owing to social, cultural and religious engagements on that day.

The date of counting remains unchanged on November 23.

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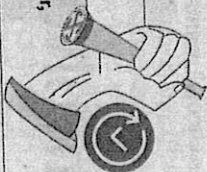
Change in date

After receiving representations from various parties, the Election Commission on Monday rescheduled byelections in 14 constituencies from November 13 to 20

■ KERALA: Palakkad

■ PUNJAB: Dera Baba Nanak, Chabbewal, Gidderbaha and Barnala

■ UTTAR PRADESH: Meerapur, Kunderki, Ghaziabad, Khair, Karhal, Sishamanu, Phulpur, Katehari and Majhawan



Poll body orders transfer of Maharashtra DGP

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI/MUMBAI

The Election Commission on Monday ordered the transfer of Maharashtra Director-General of Police Rashmi Shukla with immediate effect, ahead of the November 20 Assembly

election. Mumbai Police Commissioner Vivek Phansalkar was given additional charge of the post, a senior official said.

The transfer was ordered following complaints from the Congress and other parties, sources said.

EC agrees to parties' pleas, postpones bypolls

The parties and some social organisations had said the social, cultural and religious engagements would cause inconvenience to voters and logistics issues and may lead to reduced voter participation, the EC said.

EC sources said the Congress had submitted that a significant portion of the electorate in the Palakkad Assembly constituency in Kerala would be engaged in the "Kalpathi Rashtotsavam" from November 13 to 15.

The BJP, BSP and RLD had said that in Uttar Pradesh, people travel three or four days ahead of Kartik Purnima. On a request from the Congress, in Punjab, the 555th Prakash Parv of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji is to be celebrated on November 15 and an Akhand Path is to be organised from November 13, the sources said.

The four Punjab Assembly seats are Dera Baba Nanak, Chabbewal, Gidderbaha and Barnala. In U.P., the seats are Meerapur, Kunderki, Ghaziabad, Khair, Karhal, Sishamanu, Phulpur, Katehari and Majhawan.

The commission on October 15 scheduled the byelections to the Wayanad Lok Sabha constituency and 47 Assembly constituencies for November 13, to be held along with Phase One of the Jharkhand Assembly election. It scheduled the byelections in the Nanded Lok Sabha and Kedarnath Assembly constituencies for November 20, to be held along with the Maharashtra Assembly election and Phase 2 of Jharkhand.

Dated: 05. 11. 2024

EC PUTS OFF ASSEMBLY BYPOLLS TO NOVEMBER 20

New Delhi, Nov. 4: The Election Commission on Monday rescheduled Assembly bypolls in Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Kerala from November 13 to November 20 in view of festivals, an official statement said.

Nine seats are going to polls in Uttar Pradesh,

four in Punjab and one in Kerala.

Parties including the Congress, BJP, BSP and RLD had urged the poll body to reschedule the polls in view of various festivals, saying that it could impact voter turnout.

According to the Congress, a significant

portion of the electorate in the Palakkad Assembly will celebrate the Kalpathi Rastholsavam from November 13 to 15.

In Punjab, the party had said, the 555th Prakash Parv of Sri Guru Nanak Dev will be celebrated on November 15. Full report ■ P7

MVA welcomes EC's decision to transfer top cop before elections

BHAGWAN PARAB
MUMBAI, NOV. 4

In a major decision, the Election Commission (EC) on Monday ordered the immediate transfer of Maharashtra director general of police (DGP) Rashmi Shukla ahead of the Assembly polls.

The move comes in the wake of illegal "phone tapping" allegations levelled by the MVA, accusing her of "clear bias" against the Opposition parties.

The poll body asked Maharashtra chief secretary Sujata Saunik to hand over Ms Shukla's charge to the next seniormost IPS officer with immediate effect. Following this, the state government assigned the additional charge of DGP to Mumbai police commissioner Vivek Phansalkar.

Maharashtra Congress chief Nana Patole, who had written to the Election Commission last month requesting Ms Shukla's immediate removal from the post of the state police chief, thanked the poll body for its decision and demanded that she should not be given any election-related responsibilities.

Dated: 05.11.2024

After oppn complains of bias, poll panel transfers Maha DGP

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New Delhi: Election Commission on Monday transferred Maharashtra DGP



Rashmi Shukla with immediate effect over allegations of "clear bias" levelled

against her by opposition parties including Congress and Shiv Sena (UBT).

Mumbai police commissioner Vivek Phansalkar, the seniormost IPS officer in Maharashtra cadre, has been given additional charge as DGP until EC finalises the replacement for Shukla.

The poll panel has asked the Maharashtra chief secretary to submit the names of three IPS officers, from which it will pick Shukla's successor, by 1pm on Tuesday.

Sources in EC said both the Congress and Shiv Sena had submitted written complaints against Shukla, alleging that she was identified with the ruling dispensation in poll-bound Maha-

JMM, Congress make false promises, says Modi in Jharkhand

PM Modi on Monday launched his campaign for Jharkhand's assembly polls, urging voters to reject what he called the "politics of false guarantees" promoted by Congress and JMM, reports **ASRP Mukesh**. "JMM is now sitting in the lap of Congress and RJD ... solely driven by their hunger for power and tribal exploitation. Unlike them, BJP established this state in 2000," Modi said, urging tribal voters to "rise again against anti-tribal forces". **P 8**

EC reschedules bypolls to 14 assembly seats to Nov 20 from Nov 13

Election Commission on Monday rescheduled bypolls to 14 assembly constituencies (ACs) across Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Kerala to Nov 20 from Nov 13 in view of local festivals. The date of counting and completion of polls across nine ACs in UP, four ACs in Punjab and one AC in Kerala shall be held as announced earlier, that is, on Nov 23 and Nov 25. **P 8**

rashtra. State Congress president Nana Patole had, in a letter to CEC Rajiv Kumar on Oct 31, sought her removal, accusing her of a "clear bias" against opposition parties in the state, including Congress, Shiv Sena (UBT) and NCP (SP). He had brought up previous accusations against her of having resorted to illegal tapping of opposition leaders' phones

as then commissioner of police, Pune, and commissioner of the state intelligence department.

A source said Shukla is perceived to be close to deputy chief minister Devendra Fadnavis. EC is believed to have taken a serious view of the opposition parties' lack of confidence in Shukla and decided to rule out any scope for perceived bias, by transferring Shukla.

EC shifts bypolls to 14 seats to Nov 20 over local festivals

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New Delhi: Election Commission (EC) on Monday rescheduled the bypolls to 14 assembly constituencies (ACs) across Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Kerala to November 20 from November 13 in view of local festivals.



The date of counting and completion of

polls across nine ACs in UP, 4 ACs in Punjab and 1 AC in Kerala shall remain as announced earlier, that is, Nov 23 and Nov 25 respectively.

The rescheduling of bypolls in the three states follows requests from national and state parties such as Congress, BJP, BSP, RLD and some social organisations. While Congress had cited the 'Kalpathi Rastholsavam' festival, to be celebrated from Nov 13 to 15 in Palakkad, Kerala, to demand a deferment of the poll date, BJP, BSP & RLD in UP had approached EC with a similar rescheduling request, submitting that people usually travel 3-4 days ahead to celebrate Kartik Purnima, which falls on Nov 15 this year.

Congress too apprised EC that the 555th Prakash Parv of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji is to be celebrated on Nov 15, with an Akhand Path being organised from Nov 13 onwards.

"Keen to ensure that voters and to rule out any possibility of low voter turnout, Election Commission decided to reschedule by-polls in assembly constituencies across the three states of Kerala, Punjab and UP," an EC functionary told TOI on Monday.

EC, in its official statement, cited "large-scale social, cultural and religious engagements, which may cause inconvenience to a large number of people, give rise to various logistic issues and may lead to reduced voter participation during the poll" to justify the revised polling date.

The ACs where the polling date stands revised to Nov 20 include Meerapur, Kundarki, Ghaziabad, Khair (SC), Karhal, Sishamau, Phulpur, Katehari and Majhawan in UP; Dera Baba Nanak, Chabewal (SC), Gidderbaha and Barnala in Punjab; and Palakkad in Kerala.

UP, Punjab, Kerala bypolls rescheduled

NEW DELHI: The Election Commission on Monday rescheduled assembly bye-elections to all nine and four seats in Uttar Pradesh and Punjab, respectively, and one seat in Kerala from November 13 to 20 in view of festivals, an official statement said.

In Kerala, the bye-election to Palakkad assembly seat has been rescheduled while that for Chelakkara assembly and Wayanad Lok Sabha seats will be held as scheduled earlier on November 13.

Parties including Congress, BJP, BSP and RLD had urged the poll body to reschedule the polls in view of various festivals, saying that it could impact voter turnout.

According to the Congress, a significant portion of the electorate in the Palakkad assembly seat in Kerala will celebrate the festival of Kalpathi Rastholsavam from November 13 to 15.

In Punjab, the party had said, the 555th Prakash Parv of Sri Guru Nanak Dev will be celebrated on November 15 and an 'akhand path' will be organised from November 13 onwards.

BJP, BSP and RLD had said that in Uttar Pradesh, people travel for three-four days ahead of Kartik Purnima celebrated on November 5.

EC orders immediate transfer of Maharashtra DGP

Poll body orders CS to set up panel to appoint next police chief

NEW DELHI: Ahead of the Maharashtra Assembly polls, the Election Commission on Monday directed the state government to transfer DGP Rashmi Shukla with immediate effect following complaints from political parties, including the Congress, sources said.

The poll body directed the Maharashtra chief secretary to hand over Shukla's charge to the next senior-most IPS officer in the cadre. The chief secretary was also directed to send a panel of three IPS officers by Tuesday afternoon for appointment as DGP, the sources said.

Maharashtra goes to polls on November 20.

During a recent review meeting, Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Rajiv Kumar warned officials to not only be impartial and fair but also ensure that they are perceived as non-partisan while carrying out their duties.

On October 29, Kumar had expressed concern over politically motivated crimes in Maharashtra and asked DGP Shukla to ensure a strict clampdown on such incidents.

Key players Madhurima Raje, Gopal Shetty withdraw

MUMBAI: Former BJP MP Gopal Shetty and royal scion Madhurima Raje Chhatrapati of Congress were among the prominent candidates for Maharashtra assembly election who pulled out of the race on the last day of withdrawal of nominations. However, braving pressure from his party leadership to withdraw, Sada Sarvankar, the Shiv Sena candidate from the Mahim assembly constituency in Mumbai, failed to pull out and is now pitted against Amit Thackeray, son of Maharashtra Navnirman Sena chief Raj Thackeray. BJP's Gopal Shetty withdrew his nomination as an independent candidate from Borivali and announced he will support the party's official nominee Sanjay Upadhyay from the seat. Congress candidate Madhurima Raje Chhatrapati withdrew her nomination from Kolhapur North, minutes before the deadline to withdraw the election papers.

The recent killing of NCP leader Baba Siddique led to a political furore. He was shot dead by three gunmen in Bandra East on October 12.

Pawar, Patole welcome decision

NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar and his MVA allies Shiv Sena (UBT) and Congress on Monday welcomed the Election Commission's move to direct the Maharashtra government to transfer DGP Rashmi Shukla with immediate effect.

"The Election Commission has taken the right decision. Such persons should not continue in the post," Pawar told reporters in Mumbai.

"It was absolutely inappropriate to keep her in the position and grant her extensions. It's a positive development that the EC moved to remove her. Her tenure in the state had already come to an end," the former Union minister said. Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Uddhav Thackeray, who was present at the media briefing, also welcomed the EC's decision.

Briefing reporters in Nagpur, state Congress president Nana Patole said his party had approached the EC three times seeking Shukla's transfer, citing her alleged role in tapping phones of opposition politicians, and asked why it took so long for the poll body to take the decision. He requested the EC to ensure Shukla is not given any election-related duties.

It was absolutely inappropriate to keep her in the position and grant her extensions. It's a positive development that the EC moved to remove her

— Sharad Pawar, NCP (SP) leader

DAILY THANTH

Date: 05.11.2024

கேரளாவின் பாலக்காடு உள்பட

14 சட்டசபை தொகுதிகளுக்கான இடைத்தேர்தல் 20-ந்தேதிக்கு மாற்றம்

தேர்தல் கமிஷன் நடவடிக்கை

புதுடெல்லி, நவ.5-

உத்தரபிரதேசத்தில் 9 தொகுதிகள், பஞ்சாப்பில் 4 தொகுதிகள் மற்றும் கேரளாவின் பாலக்காடு என 14 சட்டசபை தொகுதிகளுக்கு வருகிற 13-ந்தேதி இடைத்தேர்தல் அறிவிக்கப்பட்டு இருந்தது.

ஆனால் இடைத்தேர்தல் நடைபெறும் பகுதிகளில் இந்த நாட்களில் பல்வேறு பண்டிகைகள் கொண்டாடப்படுவதாகவும், எனவே வாக்காளர்கள் தங்கள் ஜனநாயக கடமையை ஆற்றுவதில் சிரமம் உள்ளதாகவும் தேர்தல் கமிஷனுக்கு பல்வேறு கட்சிகள் கடிதம் எழுதி இருந்தன.

இதைத்தொடர்ந்து அந்த 14 தொகுதிகளுக்கான இடைத்தேர்தல் இந்த மாதம் 20-ந்தேதிக்கு மாற்றப்பட்டு உள்ளது.

இந்த தகவலை தேர்தல் கமிஷன் நேற்று செய்திக்குறிப்பு ஒன்றில் தெரிவித்து உள்ளது.

DIWA MALAR

Date: 05.11.2024

இடைத்தேர்தல் தேதி திடீர் மாற்றம்

புதுடெல்லி, நவ. 5-
மஹாராஷ்டிரா சட்ட
சபைக்கான தேர்தல், வரும்
20ம் தேதி நடக்கவுள்ளது.
ஜார்க்கண்ட் சட்டசபைக்
கான தேர்தல் இரண்டு
கட்டங்களாக வரும் 13
மற்றும் 20ம் தேதிகளில்
நடக்கவிருக்கிறது.

நாடு முழுதும் 48 சட்ட
சபை தொகுதிகளுக்கும்,
கேரளாவின் வயநாடு
லோக்சபா தொகுதிக்கு
மும் வரும் 13ம் தேதி
இடைத்தேர்தல் அறிவிக்க
கப்பட்டது.

மஹாராஷ்டிராவில்
உள்ள ஒரு லோக்சபா
தொகுதிக்கும், உத்தரகண்ட்
டில் உள்ள சட்டசபை
தொகுதிக்கும் வரும், 20ல்
இடைத்தேர்தல் நடத்த
முடிவு செய்யப்பட்டுள்

ளது. இந்நிலையில், உத்
தர பிரதேசம், பஞ்சாப்,
கேரளா ஆகிய மாநிலங்
களில் உள்ள 14 சட்ட
சபை தொகுதிகளுக்கான
இடைத்தேர்தல் தேதி
மாற்றப்பட்டுள்ளது.

இங்கு வரும் 13ம் தேதி
இடைத்தேர்தல் அறிவிக்க
கப்பட்ட நிலையில், அது,
20ம் தேதிக்கு மாற்றப்படு
வதாக தலைமை தேர்தல்
கமிஷன் அறிவித்துள்ளது.

உள்ளூர் பண்டிகை,
திருவிழா உள்ளிட்ட பல்
வேறு காரணங்களால்,
ஓட்டுப்பதிவு சதவீதம்
குறையக்கூடும் என, அரசியல்
கட்சியினர் வைத்த
வேண்டுகோளை ஏற்று,
இந்த மாற்றம் செய்யப்
பட்டுள்ளதாக தேர்தல்
கமிஷன் தெரிவித்துள்ளது.