

Halt declaration of Haryana recruitment drive results: EC

The Election Commission of India on Wednesday asked the Haryana government not to declare the results of the recruitment drive for teachers and police constables in the State till the completion of the Assembly election, in order to ensure a level playing field for all political parties. The EC, however, said that the recruitment process does not violate Model Code of Conduct guidelines. Haryana will have a single phase election on October 1, with the results to be declared on October 4. The EC was acting on complaints made by Congress leader Jairam Ramesh.

EC to deploy over 400 observers for J&K, Haryana Assembly elections

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Election Commission on Thursday said it would deploy over 400 observers for the Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir and Haryana. It asked the observers to stay vigilant against false narratives and be accessible to all political parties and voters.

Around 200 general observers, 100 police observers, and 100 expenditure observers are being deployed in Haryana and Jammu and Kashmir. These include officers drawn from the IAS, IPS, IRS, and other Central Services.

The poll body deploys observers under Section



Rajiv Kumar

20B of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 and plenary powers of the Constitution.

At a day-long meeting with the observers here on Thursday, the Election Commission, led by Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar, advised them to

overcome language barriers and ensure that there are no gaps in communication and advised them to be accessible to all parties and voters.

While noting that the Assembly elections are keenly contested, Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar emphasised that the officials should observe the complete election ecosystem for free and fair polls and asserted that the role of observers becomes more critical in these elections.

'Remain accessible'

The observers were strictly directed to remain accessible to all political parties, candidates and voters for timely redressal of their

grievances, the EC said in a statement, adding that any complaints in this regard will be viewed seriously by the poll body.

The EC officials said that special summary revision of photo electoral rolls with qualifying date July 1 has been successfully completed in all 20 districts of Jammu and Kashmir. The Union Territory has seen an addition of 93,000 new voters and the number of polling stations has also gone up by 209.

The number of young voters in the 18-19 age group has increased by 45,964, with 24,310 of them being women.

The final electoral rolls for Haryana will be published on August 27.

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EC deploys over 400 observers for elections in Haryana & J&K

Stay vigilant to counter fake narratives, remain accessible to parties: EC

DC CORRESPONDENT
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The Election Commission (EC) has deployed over 400 observers for the Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir and Haryana. On Thursday, the EC briefed these general, police and expenditure observers and asked them to remain vigilant about false narratives spread during the polls and take timely action. The observers were also directed to note the meetings of candidates and political parties and see that their grievances were properly listened to and acted upon.

Over 400 senior officers have been drawn from IAS, IPS, Indian Revenue Service and a few other Central services. Of these, around 200 are general observers, 100 police



Rajiv Kumar

observers and 100 expenditure observers.

The EC has told them to remain accessible to parties, candidates and voters for timely redressal of grievances. Reminding the observers of their crucial role, Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar emphasised that the observers, as representatives of the commission, are expected to conduct themselves professionally. He also advised them to overcome language barriers

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and ensure that there are no gaps in communication.

Stating that the observers will also be under the watchful gaze of parties, candidates, voters and the commission alike, the CEC added that their inputs will be critical in ensuring the smooth conduct of the elections.

Mr Kumar also advised observers to be vigilant towards false narratives trying to derail the election process.

All observers were also briefed about the new initiatives and directions of the commission. The observers were directed to ensure that the acts, rules, procedures, instructions, and guidelines related to elections are strictly and impartially complied with by all.

Detailed thematic presentations were made on election planning, observer's roles and responsibilities, electoral roll issues, enforcement of the model code of conduct, election expenditure monitoring, legal provisions, EVM/VVPAT management, media engagement and the wide array of activities undertaken for voter facilitation under the commission's flagship SVEEP (systematic voter's education and electoral participation) programme.