

## GENERAL ELECTION TO LOK-SABHA, 2024

### SCHEME FOR INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS OF MANIPUR TO VOTE IN RELIEF CAMPS

#### Introduction:

1. A large number of electors registered in several parts of the State of Manipur were displaced from their native places during the conflict that started from 3<sup>rd</sup> of May, 2023. Presently they are residing in Relief Camps in various districts of Manipur. The displaced electors are still enrolled at the places where they were ordinary resident before the conflict started. Therefore, the Election Commission of India, after due consultation with the Central Government and State Government has directed that:  
A. All such displaced persons who had to leave their native places during the conflict shall continue to be borne on the electoral rolls of the assembly and parliamentary constituencies concerned in the State of Manipur.  
B. As per the past precedent of similar nature, the internally displaced electors shall be provided with the facility to vote at 'Special polling Stations' to be set up in Relief camps.

#### Details of Scheme

2. Section 25 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 envisages that District Election Officer shall, with the previous approval of the Election Commission of India, provide a sufficient number of polling stations for every constituency for the whole or greater part of which lies within his jurisdiction, and shall publish in such manner as Election Commission may direct, a list showing the polling stations so provided and polling areas or group of voters for which they have respectively been provided.
3. In view of the position stated in the preceding para, the Election Commission of India has, as a first step to specify, in exercise of powers vested by Article 324 of the Constitution read with Section 25 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, the internally displaced persons of Manipur State, as a group of voters (hereinafter referred to as 'specified' voters) for whom the polling stations may be provided outside the territorial limits of those constituencies, i.e., special polling stations in various districts of the State of Manipur where they are staying in the relief camps or otherwise due to displacement.
4. **Appointment of Designated Assistant Returning Officer(s) for collection of information from 'specified' voters, voting at special polling station and counting of votes cast at such special polling stations.**

To operationalise this scheme, an Additional Deputy Commissioner or an officer of equivalent rank or SDO (of the district in which the 'specified' voters are staying) may be designated as Assistant Returning Officer for each district, as the case may be exclusively for specified voters.



## **5 Responsibilities of designated ARO: -**

- i. Assisting the DEO in identification and setting up of 'special polling station' relatable to the 'specified voters'.
  - ii. Identification of 'specified voters' with reference to the polling stations/ Assembly Constituency/Parliamentary Constituency to which they belong.
  - iii. Receipt of applications from the electors who opt to vote at 'special' polling stations
  - iv. Compilation of the list of voters who opt to vote at 'special polling station' and sending communication of the same to Returning Officer of the Parliamentary Constituency.
  - v. Conduct of the poll by voting in person at the "special" polling stations through EVMs.
  - vi. Counting of the votes, Parliamentary Constituency/ Assembly Constituency-wise, as the case may be and sending communication to the concerned Returning Officer for determining and declaring the final result of the election in the constituency.
  - vii. All other related matters.
6. Based on the existing location of the relief camp, the Commission has approved appointment of Designated AROs for each district. At present there are 10 districts having relief camps where possible 'specified voters' are residing.
- i. ADC/equivalent officer/SDO of Imphal West
  - ii. ADC/equivalent officer/SDO of Imphal East
  - iii. ADC/equivalent officer/SDO of Bishnupur
  - iv. ADC/equivalent officer/SDO of Thoubal
  - v. ADC/equivalent officer/SDO of Kakching
  - vi. ADC/equivalent officer/SDO of Churachandpur
  - vii. ADC/equivalent officer/SDO of Kangpokpi
  - viii. ADC/equivalent officer/SDO of Tengnoupal
  - ix. ADC/equivalent officer/SDO of Jiribam
  - x. ADC/equivalent officer/SDO of Ukhrul

The Designated ARO will take assistance of his staff and officers for performing the above responsibilities.

## **7. Collection of information option from 'specified voters' as to where they would like to vote.**

In order to identify the 'specified voters', the eligible voters staying in the relief camps or otherwise (staying with relatives/friends) be given option to elicit the choice of 'special polling station' where they would like to cast their vote. It may suffice, if the head of the family or any senior member of the family gives intimation in respect of all the family-members and it may not be necessary to collect such information from each elector. Though the right to vote is an individual right, the gathering of such information from the head of the family would not militate against the individual's right to vote at the time of election as the voter concerned will have to exercise the vote individually after satisfying the polling staff of her/his identity. This information



from the Head of the family/senior member of the families may be obtained in a non-statutory Form to be called '**ID Form**'. An individual voter, if without any family members staying with her/him at the relief camp, may submit her/his own ID Form. **(A copy of the 'ID Form' is at Annexure- I).**

7.1 Copies of ID Forms shall be uploaded at the CEO's and DEO's websites. Sufficient copies of ID Form shall be kept at the offices of DEOs and AROs and at the Relief Camps. The electors may also download the Form from the above websites or obtain from the offices mentioned above. Wide publicity shall also be given through newspapers and other forms of media.

7.2 It may also be made clear to the specified voters that only those such voters would be allowed to vote at special polling station who have submitted their option in ID Form. All other voters staying at relief camps who have not submitted ID Form shall not be allowed to vote at the special polling station, However, they would vote at their original polling station.

7.3 The individual or Head of the family/senior member may submit the duly filled in 'ID Form' to the above referred AROs at least **10 days before the date of poll.**

7.4 To enable the applicants to give the requisite information in 'ID Form' within the stipulated date, copies of the electoral rolls of all two Parliamentary/Assembly Constituencies shall be made available at the offices of the above mentioned AROs for inspection by the intending applicants.

**8. Assignment of 'specified voters' to 'special polling stations' and preparation of marked copies of electoral rolls.**

On the basis of intimation given by the specified voters in 'ID Form', the AROs may cull out lists, Constituency-wise, (showing therein the details of assembly segment and part number thereof) of electors who opt for voting in person in the above mentioned special polling station. Then these electors will be assigned to the different special polling stations as per the preference indicated by them. The maximum number of voters at each special polling station will be 1200. If at any special polling station, the number of voters exceeds 1200, then more than one booth may be provided at the same special polling station location with equitable distribution of electors for the convenience.

'Special Polling Stations' shall be notified for a cluster of relief camps with a specific 'Special polling Station' earmarked for a group of relief camps. Eligible electors staying in the relief camps shall be given the option to vote at the 'special polling station' notified for the relief camp where she/he is staying at. Similarly, displaced persons staying with friends/relatives etc. (outside of the relief camp) may also opt for voting at their original polling station or any of the 'Special Polling Stations' as per their convenience. As mentioned above in Paragraph 7, the specified voters opting for special polling stations will have to submit application in ID Form. The list of these polling stations with the groups of specified voters assigned to each special polling



station will then be notified, constituency wise, by the District Election Officers under Section 25 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 quoted above.

The provision of the above mentioned 'special polling stations' in the Relief Camps would mean that the 'specified class' of voters would be entitled to opt to vote at the specially provided polling stations (as per choice given in the 'ID Form') or in the original polling stations provided for them in their native places in their respective constituencies. It will have to be ensured that when these persons opt to vote in the "special polling stations", then they foreclose their right to vote in the original polling station in the constituency.

The marked copies of the electoral rolls to be used at the 'special polling stations' will consist only of the names of those electors who have been assigned to these "special polling stations" as mentioned above. A separate list of such electors may be prepared to be used as marked copy of electoral roll at the special polling station. Such list shall be prepared in ascending order of the number of the assembly segments and within assembly segment in ascending order of number of the polling stations. This marked copy of the electoral roll for the "special polling stations" may be prepared in the format as at **Annexure-II**. A summary of number of electors polling station wise and assembly segment wise shall be provided in the cover page of such list duly authenticated by the concerned Designated ARO. (**Annexure III**)

On the basis of the marked copy of the electoral roll of each special polling station so prepared, the Returning Officer/Assistant Returning Officer of the constituency will mark the letters 'VSPS' (to denote voter at special polling station) against the names of the persons, in the marked copies of the electoral roll to be used at the respective original polling stations for these voters in their native places in addition to the mark as specified in Rule 20,23 or 27E, as the case may be. VSPS shall not be entitled to vote at original polling station once opted for special polling station.

#### **9. Conduct of poll**

The poll in the 'special polling stations' shall be conducted by using separate EVMs for each PC (and separate EVMs for each AC in case of State Legislative Assembly elections) as at the other original polling stations in the constituency and all rules and directions and instructions applicable to the conduct of poll at the original polling stations will apply at these "special polling stations" also. The contesting candidates shall be informed, in writing, of the location of special polling station with request to depute their polling agents, if they wish to witness the polling process at special polling station on the date of poll. Facility of remote viewing through webcasting at appropriate location may be provided for polling agents of the candidates, who are not able to present physically owing to security reasons.

#### **10. Availability of EVMs and VVPATs**

For poll purpose the designated Assistant Returning Officers shall access the requirement of EVMs and VVPATs and the required FLC-OK EVMs and VVPATs shall be provided by the respective District Election Officer. EVMs and VVPATs shall be manually allocated to 'specified polling stations'. For greater transparency the candidates/their representatives shall be invited while providing EVMs and VVPATs



to designated Assistant Returning Officers and list of such EVMs and VVPATs shall be provided to them with proper acknowledgment.

**11. Commissioning of EVMs and VVPATs**

Commissioning of EVMs and VVPATs including reserve EVMs and VVPATs for poll shall be done by the designated Assistant Returning Officers in the presence of candidates/their representatives as per prescribed protocol under web casting/still videography.

**12. Poll Day**

For poll day, the candidates shall authorise polling agents to be present at each 'special polling station'. Poll shall be conducted under webcasting. In case where webcasting is not feasible, still videography will be carried out. Apart from the above, a Micro Observer shall be appointed at each special polling station.

**13. Counting of Votes:**

Counting of votes polled at the 'special polling stations' shall be done by the Designated AROs at the specified counting centre specially set up for this purpose with the prior approval of the Commission. The counting shall be done 'special polling station' wise as per prescribed procedure. Mandatory verification of randomly selected 05 polling stations as prescribed shall be done in the respective assembly segment of parliamentary constituencies excluding special polling stations as a special measure. The result shall be transmitted by the Designated AROs to Returning Officers of the Parliamentary constituency/Assembly constituency concerned by using Form 20as in the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961(to be used for recording the results of voting at notified polling stations). Such transmission of the result by the Designated AROs may be done by using fax/e-mail or any other means of fast communication available, followed by a duly authenticated copy. The details of such counting centre and arrangements made shall be informed to the candidates, in advance. Facility of remote viewing through webcasting at appropriate location may be provided for candidates/counting agents, who are not able to present physically owing to security reasons.

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**ID FORM**

**LETTER OF INTIMATION TO DESIGNATED ASSISTANT RETURNING OFFICER  
BY SPECIFIED VOTERS IN THE STATE OF MANIPUR FOR ELICITING THEIR  
OPTION OF SPECIAL POLLING STATION FOR CASTING THEIR VOTE IN  
GENERAL ELECTION TO LOK SABHA, 2024.**

Dated-----

To

The Assistant Returning Officer,

(For Persons residing in relief camps)

------(Parliamentary Constituency)

\_\_\_\_\_

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(Designation & address of ARO)

Sir,

I/ I along with the following members of my family whose particulars are given below, wish to cast my/our vote/votes, in person, at the special polling station being provided during Lok Sabha, 2024:

S.No.	Name of the voter(s)	Father's/Mother's/ Spouse's Name	Name of the Parliamentary Constituency	Name of the Assembly Segment	Part No. of Electoral Roll (if known)	S. No. in that Part	EPIC No. if available
1.							
2.							
3.							
4.							

My present address in relief camp or otherwise is as follows: -

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Yours faithfully,

Signature.....

Name.....



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**(Manipur State)**

**Marked copy of Electoral Roll to be used at Special Polling  
Station**

**Name of Parliamentary Constituency:** \_\_\_\_\_

**No. & Name of Special Polling Station:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date of Poll:** \_\_\_\_\_

No. & Name of Assembly Segment	S. No. of Part in that Assembly Segment	S. No. of elector in that Part	Name of elector	Gender of elector	Age of elector	Identification document (EPIC/ Alternate Document)	Signature/ Thumb Impression
1 - ABC	5	11	XYZ				
		12	XXX				
		13	YYY				
		14	ZZZ				
	6						
2 - DEF							



**General Election to Lok Sabha, 2024**

**(Manipur State)**

**Summary Sheet of Electors**

No. & Name of Special Polling Station: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Poll: \_\_\_\_\_

No. & Name of PC	No. & Name of Assembly Segment	S. No. of Part in that Assembly Segment	No. of electors
1-Manipur Inner	5-PQRS	11	10
		15	15
		17	02
	8-RSKV		
	10-KPLM		
	11-KDPL		

Signature & Seal of ARO

Name of ARO

