



OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER

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No. E.47/1/2026-Bye Election 2026

Puducherry, dt. 07.09.2026

PRESS RELEASE

Election Commission of India has announced the Schedule for Bye Election to 09. Thattanchavady AC of Puducherry UT on 07.09.2026. The Poll schedule is as follows:-

Sl. No.	Poll Events	Schedule
1.	Date of Issue of Gazette Notification	09.09.2026 (Wednesday)
2.	Last date for making Nominations	16.09.2026 (Wednesday)
3.	Date for the scrutiny of nominations	17.09.2026 (Thursday)
4.	The last date for the withdrawal of candidatures	19.09.2026 (Saturday)
5.	Date of Poll	06.10.2026 (Tuesday)
6.	Date of Counting of Votes	09.10.2026 (Friday)
7.	Date before which election shall be completed	11.10.2026 (Sunday)

MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT

- The Model Code of Conduct comes into effect immediately from today (i.e.07.09.2026) and shall remain in force till the completion of election process (i.e. on 11.10.2026)
- As per ECI's letter no. 437/6/INST/ECI/FUNCT/MCC/2024/ (BYE ELECTIONS) dated 2nd January, 2024, the MCC instructions would be applicable in the area of 09. Thattanchavady Assembly Constituency only.
- The Model Code of Conduct will be applicable to all Political Parties, all Candidates, the Government and the Government Officials/servants.
- The Political Parties are requested to abide by the Model Code and extend their co-operation for conduct of free, fair and peaceful election that is free of hostilities, acrimony and does not give room for bitterness.
- The hoardings and banners displaying political advertisements are being removed. In terms of Section 4 of The Pondicherry Open Places (Prevention of Disfigurement) Act, 2000 (POPPD Act, 2000) "*no person shall deface any place open to public view by writing or marking with ink, chalk, paint or any other material except for the purpose of indicating the name and for such other purpose as may be specified in the said notification*". Action for violation of this provision will be initiated on the basis of complaint from the owners. The police is also bound to register cases.
- The Political Parties are requested to extend their full co-operation for removal of advertisements and defacements in public places.
- Government Servants have been warned not to participate in any political activity. Any complaint against erring Government servants will be dealt with sternly. Besides taking

disciplinary action under Service Rules against those Government servants participating in political activities, criminal action would also be instituted under section 223 of BNS.

- All Officers / officials, including Police engaged in the conduct of elections shall be deemed to be on deputation to the Election Commission of India and would discharge their duties in an impartial manner without fear or favor. Their performance would be under constant scrutiny of the Commission.

ELECTORAL ROLLS

- The final Electoral Rolls with reference to 01.01.2026 as qualifying date were published on 14.02.2026. However, the process of continuous updation of Electoral Roll will continue till the last date of filing nomination with proximal qualifying date (i.e. 01.07.2026) in respect of applications received till 10 days before last date of filing nomination.

ELECTRONIC VOTING MACHINES (EVMs) & VVPATs

- Adequate numbers of EVMs and VVPATs have been made available and all steps have been taken to ensure that the poll is conducted smoothly with the help of these machines.

Proof of identification during poll:

- Electoral Photo Identity Card (EPIC) shall be the main document of identification of a voter. However, as instructed by the ECI, any of the below mentioned identification documents can also be shown at the polling station
 - o Aadhar Card;
 - o MGNREGA Job Card
 - o Passbooks with photograph issued by Bank / Post Office;
 - o Health Insurance Smart Card issued under the scheme of Ministry of Labour / Ayushman Bharat Health Card;
 - o Driving License;
 - o PAN Card;
 - o Smart Card issued by RGI under NPR;
 - o Indian Passport;
 - o Pension document with photograph;
 - o Service Identity Cards with photograph issued to employees by Central/State Government / PSUs/Public Limited Companies;
 - o Official Identity Cards issued to MPs/MLAs/MLCs; and
 - o Unique Disability ID (UDID) Card, M/o. Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India

INFORMATION REGARDING CRIMINAL ANTECEDENTS

- Candidates with Criminal Antecedents are required to publish information in this regard in newspapers and through Television channels on three occasions during the campaign period.
- A political party that sets up candidates with criminal antecedents is also required to publish the same in TV Channels and Newspapers on the following three occasions.
 - o Within first 4 days of withdrawal.
 - o Between next 5th – 8th days.
 - o From 9th day till the last day of campaign (the second day prior to date of poll)
- In addition, the political parties shall also publish the reasons for selecting candidates with criminal antecedents in newspapers and its official social media platforms and websites within 48 hours after the selection of such candidates.

- This information will also be available on ECINET titled, '**Know Your Candidates**'.

NO DUES CERTIFICATE

- The Commission has issued directions to facilitate, if approached by any intending candidate, who has been in occupation of accommodation provided by the Government any time during the last 10 years before the date of notification of the election, to obtain "No due certificate" from agencies/authorities/departments dealing with (a) rent, (b) electricity charges, (c) water charges and (d) telephone charges. The Instructions are contained in the Commission's letter no. 3/ER/2023/SDR/Vol.IV dated 03.05.2026 and is available in the Commission's website.

ASSURED MINIMUM FACILITY

- It has been ensured that all the polling stations are provided with basic minimum facilities such as ramps, electricity, separate toilets, shades, approach roads etc.,

ADDITIONAL FACILITIES FOR PWDs

- All polling stations will be mapped with the disabled voters in their respective polling stations.
- Facilitation services such as wheel chairs and adjustable tables will be provided for orthopedically handicapped.
- For visually impaired, hearing impaired and speech impaired, Trained volunteers who have undergone special education will be stationed at select booths.
- Braille ballot papers will be kept in each Polling Station for the use of visually challenged electors and they will also be permitted to take one companion if they desire so.
- Shaksham App has also been developed by the ECI through which PwD voters can seek assistance.
- Student volunteers with vehicles will provide one to one service to the disabled right from taking them to the Polling Station till their return back to home on demand by the PwD Electors.

VOTING OF SERVICE VOTERS/GOVERNMENT SERVANTS ON ELECTION DUTY

- All 13 service voters will be provided ballots through Electronically Transmitted Postal Ballot System (ETPBS).

COMPLAINT REDRESSAL MECHANISM-CALL CENTER

- The State/District Contact Centre at Puducherry has been established with Toll Free Number 1950.
- 1950 will be a single source for availing the bundle of election services apart from registering complaints.
- Electors may log on to voters.eci.gov.in to find their sl.no. part no., location of the Polling Station and the contact details of their BLO.
- Web based online complaints can also be registered through NGSP portal.

**ASPS. RAVI PRAKASH, I.A.S.,
CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER**