

General Elections and bye-elections 2026: Paid Holiday on Polling Day

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1. Election Commission of India (ECI) announced the schedule for the General Election to Legislative Assemblies of Assam, Kerala, Puducherry, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal and Bye-election to 8 (Eight) Assembly Constituencies of Goa, Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Nagaland and Tripura on March 15, 2026.
2. Polls in the states are to be held as per the schedule given below:

Name of State/UT going for general elections/ bye-elections	Poll Date
Assam, Kerala, Puducherry, Goa, Karnataka, Nagaland and Tripura	09.04.2026
Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and Maharashtra	23.04.2026
West Bengal	23.04.2026 (Phase I)
	29.04.2026 (Phase II)

3. **As per Section 135B** of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 every person employed in any business, trade, industrial undertaking, or any other establishment, and entitled to vote at an election to the House of the People or to the Legislative Assembly of a States/UTs or Bye-election to a PC/AC shall be granted a **paid holiday** on the day of poll.
4. **No deduction of wages** shall be made on account of such a paid holiday. Any employer who contravenes these provisions shall be liable to a fine. All daily wage and casual workers are also entitled to a paid holiday on the day of poll.
5. The Commission has further clarified that **electors (including casual and daily wage workers)** who are working or employed in industrial or commercial establishments located **outside their constituency but are registered as voters in a constituency** going to polls shall also be entitled to the benefit of a paid holiday on the day of poll to enable them to cast their vote.
6. The Commission has directed all State/UT Governments to issue necessary instructions to all concerned for strict compliance with these provisions and to ensure that all electors are able to exercise their franchise freely and conveniently.

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