



भारत निर्वाचन आयोग
Election Commission of India

निर्वाचन सदन
NIRVACHAN SADAN
अशोक रोड, नई दिल्ली-110001
ASHOKA ROAD, NEW DELHI-110001

No. ECI/PN/103/2026

Dated: 6th July, 2026

PRESS NOTE

Subject: Bye-Elections to the Council of States from West Bengal- reg.

There are 03 casual vacancies in the Council of States from West Bengal, as per the following details:

S.No.	Name of Member (Shri/Smt./Ms.)	Reason	Date of Vacancy	Term up to
1	Sukhendu Sekhar Ray	Resignation	08.06.2026	18.08.2029
2	Sushmita Dev	Resignation	10.06.2026	02.04.2030
3	Prakash Chik Baraik	Resignation	11.06.2026	18.08.2029

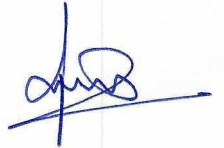
2. The Commission has decided to hold 03 separate bye-elections to the Council of States to fill up the above-mentioned vacancies in accordance with the following schedule:

Sl. No	Events	Dates
1.	Issue of Notifications	07 th July, 2026 (Tuesday)
2.	Last date of making nominations	14 th July, 2026 (Tuesday)
3.	Scrutiny of nominations	15 th July, 2026 (Wednesday)
4.	Last date for withdrawal of candidatures	17 th July, 2026 (Friday)
5.	Date of Poll	24th July, 2026 (Friday)
6.	Hours of Poll	09:00 am- 04:00 pm
7.	Counting of Votes	24 th July, 2026 (Friday) at 05:00 pm
8.	Date before which election shall be completed	27 th July, 2026 (Monday)

3. The Commission has directed that for the purpose of marking preference(s) on the ballot paper, only integrated violet colour sketch pen(s) of pre-fixed specification, provided by the Returning Officer, shall be used. No other pen shall, under any circumstances, be used in the aforesaid elections.

4. Adequate measures for close monitoring of the election process by appointing observers shall be taken to ensure free and fair elections.

5. It is further clarified that the vacancies for Bye-elections to all Houses, including the Rajya Sabha, are considered as separate vacancies and separate notifications are issued and separate poll is taken for each of the vacancies although the programme schedule for the bye-elections may be common. This is in conformity with the provisions of Section 147 to 151 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, and has been the consistent practice of the Commission in such cases. Holding of separate elections has been upheld by the Hon'ble Delhi High Court in W.P. No. 9357 of 2006 (Satya Pal Malik Vs Election Commission of India) by its decision dated 20.01.2009.



(RAJESH KUMAR SINGH)
UNDER SECRETARY