

# Bye Election to 38-Balasore & 102-Tirtol(SC) Assembly Constituency



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#### **CONTENTS**

- 1. Foreword ( CEO's message)
- 2. Election schedule
- 3. Map Date of Election & Counting 03.11.2020 & 10.11.2020
- 4. Electoral roll & polling station
- 5. Training & capacity building
- 6. Enforcement of model code of conduct
- 7. Constitution of cell
- 8. Filing of nomination paper
- 9. Postal ballot
- 10. EVMs & VVPATs
- 11. SVEEP measures
- 12. Visit of CEO
- 13. Dispersal
- 14. Assured minimum facility
- 15. Poll day arrangement & COVID safe election
- 16. Counting
- 17. Return of election

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#### **CEO'S MESSAGE**

Free, fair, credible and professionally managed election forms the bedrock of a healthy and

vibrant democracy. Our mandate is efficient and scientific management of election and regular updating of electoral rolls. After the release of press note by election commission of India on 29<sup>th</sup> September, 2020 for conduct of Bye-Election in the two Assembly Constituencies of 32-Balasore AC & 102-Tirtol (SC) AC on 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 2020 every effort was made not only for updation of Electoral Roll, but also for a COVID Safe Election as the Poll is scheduled in the COVID pandemic period. During the entire poll process special emphasis was given to



safety & security of polling staff deployed in election duty as well voters.

As per ECI guidelines every person deployed in election process were given face mask, gloves, sanitizer, PPE kit etc. All entry to halls / room/ premises used for election purposes were sanitized properly and sanitizer, soap & water were provided for cleaning hands of voters before voting. Thermal scanning of every voter was carried out to check their temperature to segregate the Covid positive patients. All election related activities were conducted in large halls to maintain social distancing. Auxiliary polling stations were created by restricting the number of voter to 1000 in every polling station to stop overcrowding.

In view of COVID-19 pandemic situation and having the mission of "No voters to be left behind", Election Commission of India has extended the postal Ballot facility for the otherwise vulnerable group of voters in the three categories such as those above 80 years, PwD voters flagged as such in the Electoral Roll and the Covid-19 affected / suspected to enable their exercise their franchise through postal ballot by remaining at home during the bye-elections.

Because of meticulous planning and execution, following all COVID guidelines by everyone involved in the Election process, during COVID pandemic time also the voter turnout could be 70.57% for 38-Balasore and 70.55% in case of Tritol AC Bye Election. I must thank the voters of both the constituencies for extending full co-operation to the District Administration, all the political party workers, candidates, all the field level functionaries particularly ASHA workers, volunteers, BLOs, Sector Officers, polling personnel drawn from various departments, police personnel officers & staff, both from Odisha as well as from CAPF coming from outside, all the officers of various departments, and particularly health Department who have fully supported the election commission in carrying out this tasks.

(Sushil Kumar Lohani, IAS) Chief Electoral Officer, Odisha

### **ELECTION SCHEDULE**

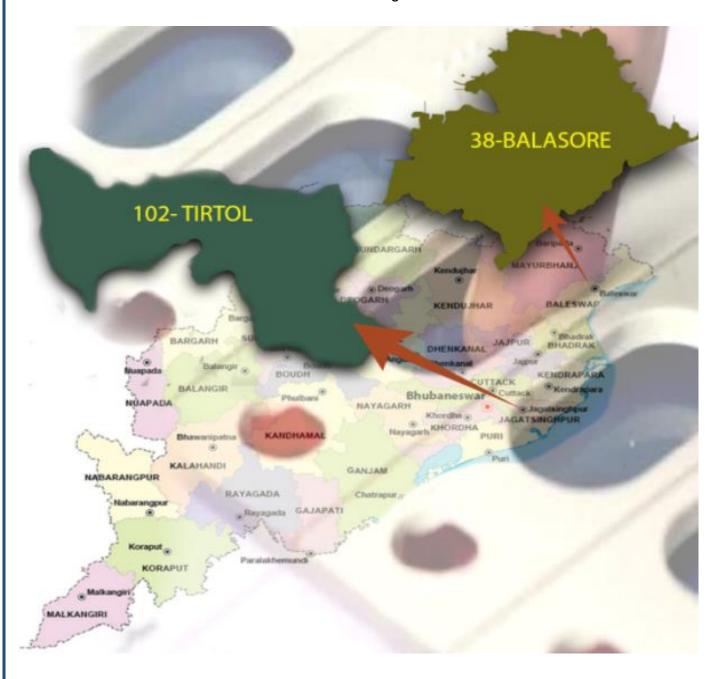
<b>Poll Events</b>		Date			
Date of Issue o	f Gazette Notification	09.10.2020 (Friday)			
Last Date of No	ominations	16.10.2020. (Friday)			
Date for Scruting	ny of Nominations	17.10.2020 (Saturday)			
Last Date for V	Vithdrawal of	19.10.2020 (Monday)			
candidatures					
Date of Poll		03.11.2020 (Tuesday)			
Date of Countin	ng	10.11.2020 (Tuesday)			
Date before wh	ich election shall be	12.11 .2020 (Thursday)			
completed					



# BYE-ELECTIONS TO 38-BALASORE AND102-TIRTOL (SC) ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCIES – 2020

#### Date - 03.11.2020

The Election Commission of India has decided to hold Bye-Elections to fill vacancies in 38 - Balasore and102-Tirtol (SC) Assembly Constituencies vide its Press Note No. ECI/PN/67/2020 dated 29<sup>th</sup> September, 2020 as the vacancies were caused due to the sad demise of the sitting MLAs of both the Constituencies. Accordingly, election was conducted in these two Assembly Constituencies of Odisha on 03.11.2020 and counting was made on 10.11.2020.



#### **ELECTORAL ROLL AND POLLING STATION**

As per the instruction of Election Commission of India dated 30<sup>th</sup> July, 2020 the final Electoral Roll was prepared for 38-Balasore AC & 102 -Tirol SC(AC) i.e. 19.10.2020 which is the last date of filing of nomination. As these two constituencies were undergoing poll during COVID-19 pandemic period, in order to restrict overcrowding and maintain social distancing, the number of voters in every polling station has been restricted to 1000 as per instruction of the Commission.

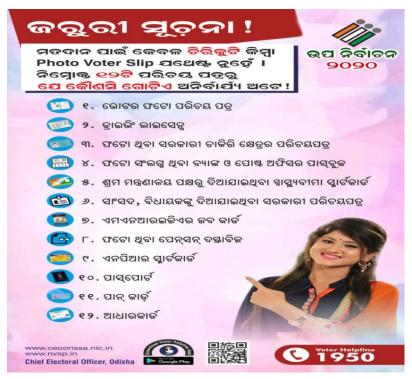
Name of	No. of	Total	Male	Female	Others	Service
the AC	Polling Station	No. of				Voter
	including Auxiliary polling station	Electors				
38-	346	230561	118658	111630	9	264
Balasore						
102-	373	2,37696	123189	114065	28	414
Tirtol						
(SC)						



Further Auxiliary Polling station & change of nomenclature / location of the polling station has been made for smooth conduct of election. In 38 Balasore(AC)the number of polling station increased from 198 to 346 and in 102 Tirtol SC(AC) no. of Polling stations increased from 265 to 373.

### IDENTIFICATION OF VOTERS

Voter's identification was made mandatory at the time of Poll .Electoral Photo Identity cards (Epic) was the main document of identification of a voter. However, in order to ensure that no voter is deprived of his/ her franchise, if his/her name figures in the electoral rolls, alternative identity documents were also prescribed.



#### **ENFORCEMENT OF MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT**

Model code of conduct came into immediate effect in the districts both the ACs with the announcement of election through press note by the Commission dated 29th September 2020.The MCC was made applicable to all the political parties, candidates, & state govt. concerned. From the date of announcement of Bye-Elections by the Commission, Model Code of Conduct was enforced in both the districts i.e. Balasore Jagatsinghpur. and During the election process, the Commission's instructions MCC. Election Expenditure and other guidelines were strictly followed.



Squads were constituted for enforcement of MCC. 86 Polling Station in Balasore and 155 Polling Station in Tirtol have been declared as critical polling station where CAPF deployed and other measures like webcasting, micro observers, videography or CCTV coverage was undertaken.

In order to supervise the election process, the Commission has deployed one General Observer in each AC and one Expenditure Observer in each AC.



For facilitating the votes, 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 2020 was declared as a holiday in both the ACs by Government of Odisha.

#### **TRAINING & CAPACITY BUILDING**

The training and capacity building of all election related officials like Returning Officers, Presiding Officer and other polling personnel was carried out successfully adhering to COVID guidelines





#### **Constitution of Cell for poll management**

The following cell were constituted & measures were taken for smooth conduct of poll in Districts during the Bye Election-

- Functioning of Media Monitoring Cell
- MCC & Complaint Monitoring Cell
- Law & Order and C-Vigil Media Certification and Monitoring Cell
- Video Surveillance Team
- Video Viewing Team
- Election Expenditure Monitoring and Paid News
- Observer Management Cell
- Webcasting
- Vehicle Permission Cell for Candidate





#### FILING OF NOMINATION PAPER

The following covid safety guidelines were followed for filing of nomination paper-

- Nomination form, was made available online on the website of CEO/DEO. An intending candidate may fill in it online and its print may be taken for submitting before the Returning Officer as specified in Form-1 (Rule-3 of Conduct of Election Rules 1961).
- Affidavit were also allowed to be filled in online on the website of CEO/DEO and its print can be taken and after notarization it may be submitted along

with the nomination form before the Returning Officer.



 Candidate were allowed to deposit security money through online mode at the designated platform. However, a candidate will continue to have the option of deposit in cash in the treasury.

 Candidate may have the option to seek his/her elector certification for the purpose of nomination online.

Further, Commission has directed:

- Number of persons to accompany candidate for submission of Nomination is restricted to two (2). (This is in supersession of existing Para 5.8.1 of Returning Officer's Handbook 2019)
- Number of vehicles for the purposes of nomination is restricted to two (2). (This is in supersession of existing Para 5.8.1 of Returning Officer's Handbook 2019)
- Arrangement of spacious chamber for Returning Officers were made to perform the functions of nomination, scrutiny and symbol allocation following social distancing norms.
- Returning Officer were instructed to allot staggered time in advance to prospective e candidates.
- Large space for waiting for candidate(s) were arranged.

#### **POSTAL BALLOT FACILITY FOR VOTERS**

In view of Covid-19 pandemic situation and having the mission of "No voters to be left behind " Election Commission of India has extended the Postal Ballot facility for the otherwise vulnerable group of voters in the three categories such as those above 80 years, PwD voters flagged as such in the Covid-19 Electoral Roll and the affected/suspected to exercise their franchise through Postal Ballot remaining at home during the bye-elections.

Accordingly, Chief Electoral Officer, Odisha Sushil Kumar Lohani had instructed the District Election Officers of Balasore and Jagatsinghpur and the Returning Officers for 38-Balasore and 102— Tirtol ACs to conduct door to door survey of the above category of voters by the local Booth Level Officer to sensitise them about these provisions and collect the application forms.

As per the instructions of Commission the application in Form-12D for giving consent for voting through Postal Ballot was sent to these voters through the BLOs from 10th to 14th October,2020. All the voters of these 3 categories were personally contacted by the Booth Level Officers(BLO).













As reported, in Tirtol AC, Out of 15253 such voters 3681 voters opted for postal ballot while 9677 refused, 1496 were not available despite contacting them twice.

Similarly, in Balasore Sadar AC out of 8275 voters belonging to the three categories 1727 voters opted for postal ballot while 902 were not available despite contacting them twice and 3503 refused postal ballot and decided to vote at the booth on poll day.

in the COVID-19 suspected or affected category out of 340 voters in Tirtol Ac 130 opted for postal ballot and out of 101 such voters in Balasore Sadar only 7 opted while the rest preferred to vote physically in the Polling Stations, as they will come around by the time of Poll.

#### **EVMs & VVPATs**

Adequate number of EVMs and VVPATs have been made available for the aforementioned bye-election The ECI had allocated 900 nos. of M3 ECIL Ballot Units, 1240 nos. of Control Units & 1340 nos. of VVPATs

As per the ECI protocol, Commissioning of EVMs & VVPATs took place from 22.10.2020 to 26.10.2020 by the concerned Returning Officers of 38-Balasore & 102-Tirtol (SC) AC of Jagatsinghpur district.

After keeping 100% EVMs & 100% VVPATs for 346 nos. of Polling Stations for Balasore district & 373 Stations nos. of Polling Jagatsinghpur district, a total no. of 288 nos. of Ballot Units, 254 nos. Control Units & 325 nos. of VVPATs were kept as "Reserve" for both the ACs, which comes to 40%, 36% & 45% of the Polling **Stations** respectively.





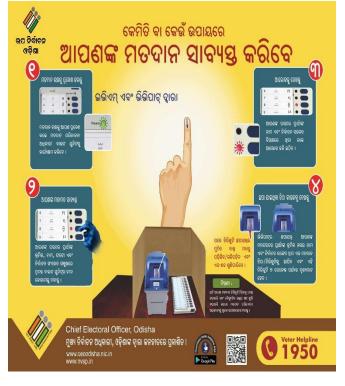


#### **SVEEP MEASURES**





















### **VISIT OF CEO**

Before the poll, in order to take stock of the poll preparedness, CEO conducted a physical visit to the poll going districts and witnessed election preparedness on 28.10.2020. During his visit, strict adherence of COVID protocols, and detail of dispersal arrangement, safety and security measures was discussed.







#### **DISPERSAL**



















## Social distancing for safe travel of polling personnel

For smooth conduct of Poll, 2768 polling personnel were deployed in Balasore AC and 2984 polling personnel deployed in Tirtol AC. All the polling personnel deployed have been provided with COVID safety Kits like face mask, face shield, sanitizer, gloves, PPE Kit etc.



#### **ASSURED MINIMUM FACILITY**

For facilitating PWD voters, vahan pass were issued to 1871 electors in both the ACs. For the PwD/ old electors, in every polling station, arrangement of wheel chair has been made and Asha worker / NYK volunteers were engaged to help the old and infirmed voters. In both the constituencies, 3500 polling personnel, 800 Asha workers and equal number of volunteer have been engaged on the poll.









# POLL DAY ARRANGEMENT & COVID SAFE ELECTION

General Guidelines of ECI were followed during entire election processes for all persons

> Every person were asked to wear facemask during every election related activity.



- At the entry of each hall/ room/ premises used for election purpose thermal **Scanning** of all persons were carried out. Two additional polling personnel i.e. Asha worker were engaged outside the polling station to conduct thermal scanning of each voter, for dispensing sanitizer and distribution of gloves to voters and to ensure social distancing of voter.
- Sanitizer, soap and water was made available at the entry of each polling station.





 Social distancing was maintained as per the extant COVID-19 guidelines of the State Govt. and Ministry of Home Affairson poll day





• Large halls were identified and utilized to ensure social distancing norms.



 Adequate number of vehicles were mobilized for movement of polling personnel, security personnel to ensure compliance of COVID-19 guidelines. For maintaining social distancing for safe travel of polling personnel, total 525 no. of vehicles i.e. 360 for Balasore AC and 165 for Tirtol (SC) AC were deployed



#### **Nodal Health Officer**

A Nodal Health Officer was designated for the State, the District and the Assembly Constituency to oversee COVID-19 related arrangements and, preventive measures during entire electoral process.

## Supply of Covid Safety materials

Accordingly, 815 number of IR Thermometer, 4314 PPE Kits, 6.5 lakh gloves, 7830 face shields as well as sufficient quantity of hand sanitizer, sodium hypochlorite solution, bleaching powder, soaps, paper napkin have been supplied r election purposes.























#### **COUNTING**

All precautions relating to COVID-19 protocols such as Social distancing, face masks, face shields, sanitization of the Halls, Thermal scanning of all persons was ensured.

Counting Arrangements was made at Collectorate Campus, Balasore for 38-Balasore A.C. and at S.V.M. College, Jagatsingpur for 38-Tirtol (S.C.) A.C. Keeping in view the COVID-19 situation,

ECI has approved additional counting halls stipulating maximum no. Tables in a Hall at 07. Accordingly, Two EVM/VVPAT Counting Halls and one Postal Ballot Counting Hall (Three in Total) have been arranged for each of the A.Cs.

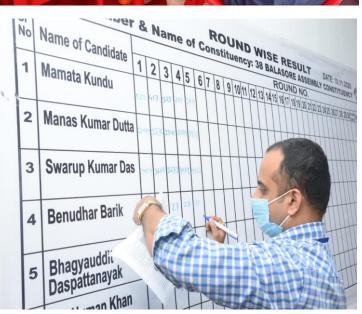
Three (03) Additional A.R.Os for 38-Balasore A.C. and Two (02) Addl. A.R.Os for 102- Tirtol (S.C.) A.C. have been approved by ECI and notified in Gazette. Counting of Postal Ballots was started first followed by EVM counting

**Display of Result** of Individual Control Unit through larger screen/monitor for convenience for Counting Agents has been arranged.

VVPAT Counting of five randomly selected Polling Stations, was held at the end of Counting process. Round wise result was available in the website: results.eci.gov.in. Same was disseminated outside Counting Centre as well as CEO's Office.







**Three Tier Security Arrangement -** Combination of Local Police, State Armed Force and CAPF was made at the Counting Centres.









#### **RETURN OF ELECTION**

The final poll percentage during Simultaneous General Election, 2019 was recorded as 70.29% and 74.09% for 38-Balasore AC and 102-Tirtol (SC) AC respectively.

It is seen that during the COVID Pandemic time also, there is a lot of enthusiasm among voters starting from young- old to exercise their franchise. During the poll, no interruption or obstruction of poll was noticed and the poll was completed peacefully.

Some complaints raised by political parties and other citizens were immediately inquired and necessary steps were taken for redressal. The voter turnout was recorded as 70.55% in respect of 102-Tirtol (SC) AC and 70.57% in respect of 38-Balasore AC.



**Your One Vote Counts** 

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