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Elections to 63 ULBs on May 29

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BENGALURU: Elections to 63 urban local bodies (ULB), excluding all city corporations such as Bengaluru, will be held on May 29, the State Election Commission announced here on Thursday.

With the announcement, the model code of conduct will come into force with immediate effect, State Election Commissioner P N Sreenivasachari told reporters.

"In the second phase, there are totally 103 ULBs whose term ends between March and July. But ward-wise reservation and delimitation pertaining to 39 ULBs are pending before the high court. Also, we have decided not to hold polls for the Kundgol town panchayat owing to the bye-election to the Kundgol Assembly constituency. As a result, we are going ahead with polls for the remaining 63 ULBs," Sreenivasachari explained.

These 63 ULBs - eight city municipal councils, 33 town municipal councils and 22

No alliance, says Congress

Last year, polls were held for 109 ULBs in the first phase for which the Congress did not have an alliance with the JD(S). Of the 2,662 seats, the Congress had won 982, BJP 929 and JD(S) 375. The Congress has already announced that it will not forge a pre-poll alliance with the JD(S).

"Officially, there will not be an alliance with the JD(S), but at the local level, our leaders will be free to have an understanding if needed," Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) president Dinesh Gundu Rao said. According to sources, the Congress will find it difficult to stitch a grassroots alliance with the JD(S), given the rivalry between the two.


Also, the Congress had told its cadre that the alliance with the JD(S) was confined to the state government and Lok Sabha polls.

town panchayats - comprise 1,361 wards to which representatives will be elected. The highest wards are in Bidar (128), followed by Tumakuru (114) and Mysuru (95) districts.

Electronic voting machines (EVM) will be used for polling but without Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT). "Across India, VVPATs are not

being used in any ULB polls. We're talking to the government on getting VVPATs," Sreenivasachari said.



Manufacture and sale of liquor will be banned from May 13 to 31 in the 10 taluk panchayat seats and 202 gram panchayat seats for which by-polls will be held on May 29, Sreenivasachari said. "Also,



Timetable

Poll Date: **May 29**

Timings: 7 am to 5 pm	ULBs going to polls: 63
Date of notification: May 9	* 8 city municipal councils
Last date to file nomination: May 16	* 33 town municipal councils
Last date to withdraw nomination: May 20	* 22 town panchayats
Counting: May 31, 8 am onward	Total wards - 1,361

Total number of voters 14,74,086		Polling stations: 1646
		Personnel: 8,230
Female: 7,36,899	Male: 7,37,006	Total ULBs in Karnataka: 277
		Others: 181

we are using ballot papers for the rural bypolls as existing Electronic Voting machines aren't designed to allow voting for multiple candidates," he added.

BBMP wards

Two wards in the BBMP - Sa-gayapuram and Kaveripuram - are among the seats where

bypolls will be held on May 29.

Sreenivasachari also pointed out that 26 elected members in the gram panchayats and the taluk panchayats had been suspended for failing to submit details of assets and liabilities to the State Election Commission as per rules.

DH News Service