



GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

Abstract

General Administration Department - General Election to Kerala Legislative Assembly 2026 - Day of Poll - Public holiday declared for all Public Offices, Educational Institutions & Institutions under Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881 and Paid Holiday declared for all Government and Commercial Establishments - Orders issued.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION (CO-ORDINATION) DEPARTMENT

G.O.(Rt)No.1462/2026/GAD Dated, Thiruvananthapuram, 21-03-2026

Read:- Letter No.78/EPS/2026 dated 16.03.2026 from the Election Commission of India

ORDER

The Government of Kerala are pleased to declare Thursday, the 9th April, 2026 as a Public Holiday for all Public Offices and Educational Institutions in the State in connection with the General Election to the Kerala Legislative Assembly 2026.

2) Under the Explanation to Section 25 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881 (Central Act XXVI of 1881), read with the Notification of the Government of India, Ministry of Home Affairs No. 20/25/56-pub-1 dated 18th June 1957, the Government of Kerala are also pleased to declare Thursday, the 9th April, 2026 as a holiday for all Government/Quasi Government and Commercial establishments under the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881.

3) In accordance with Section 135B of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, the day of poll, i.e., 9th April, 2026, shall be a Paid Holiday for all employees of Commercial undertakings and other Private Institutions in the State.

4) The Labour Commissioner will make necessary arrangements with all Private Enterprises, Private Industrial Centers, and other Private Institutions under the Kerala Shops and Commercial Establishment Act to ensure that the day of poll is declared as a paid holiday for all their employees. No deduction or abatement of the wages of any such person shall be made on account of this holiday. If a person is employed on a basis that they would not ordinarily receive wages for such a day, they shall nonetheless be paid the wages they would have drawn had a holiday not been granted.

5) Employees, including daily wage and casual workers, who are ordinarily resident in a constituency where the poll is taking place and are registered as electors, but are serving or employed in an industrial undertaking or establishment located outside that constituency, shall also be entitled to the benefit of a paid holiday on the day of poll.

6) The Section 135B of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 is reproduced below for information:-

- a. Every person employed in any business, trade, industrial undertaking or any other establishment and entitled to vote at election to the house of the people or the Legislative Assembly of a State shall, on the day of poll, be granted a holiday.
- b. No deduction or abatement of the wages of any such person shall be made on account of a holiday having been granted in accordance with sub-section (1) and if such person is employed on the basis that he/she would not ordinarily receive wages for such a day, he/she shall nonetheless be paid for such day the wages he/she would have drawn had not a holiday been granted to him/her on that day.
- c. If an employer contravenes the provisions of sub-section (1) or sub-section (2), then such employer shall be punishable with fine, which may extend to five hundred rupees.
- d. This section shall not apply to any elector whose absence may cause danger or substantial loss in respect of the employment in which he is engaged.

7) The above provisions require that all the electors who are employees of establishments and shops including those which work on

shift basis shall be granted a paid holiday on the day of poll in the Constituency where the General Elections are to be held. Further, there may be cases where a person is ordinarily resident of the Constituency and registered as an elector, may be serving or employed in an industrial undertaking or an establishment located outside the Constituency having a general election. It is clarified that in such a situation, even those electors including casual workers working outside the constituency concerned would be entitled to the benefit of a paid holiday extended under the Section 135B(1) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

8) The daily wage/ casual workers are also entitled for a holiday and wages on the poll day as provided in Section 135B of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

(By order of the Governor)
K BIJU I A S
SECRETARY

The Under Secretary, Election Commission of India, Nirvachan Sadan,
New Delhi

The Chief Electoral Officer - Kerala, Election (General) Department,
Thiruvananthapuram

All Additional Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary/Secretary/Special
Secretary

The Additional Secretary to Governor, Lokbhavan,
Thiruvananthapuram

All Heads of Departments

All District Collectors

The Chief Executives of all Public Sector Undertakings

The Principal Accountant General (Audit) - Kerala,
Thiruvananthapuram.

The Regional Director, Reserve Bank of India, Thiruvananthapuram

All Government /Quasi Government Industrial concerns - Through
the District Collectors

All Government Commercial undertaking - Collector concerned

The Station Director, All India Radio, Thiruvananthapuram.

The Station Director, Dooradarshan Kendra, Thiruvananthapuram

The Secretary, Kerala Legislative Assembly, Thiruvananthapuram
The Labour Commissioner, Thiruvananthapuram.
The Registrar, High Court of Kerala, Ernakulam
The Advocate General, Ernakulam
The Secretary, Kerala Public Service Commission, Thiruvananthapuram
Registrars of all Universities in Kerala
The Registrar, Kerala Administrative Tribunal, Vanchiyoor,
Thiruvananthapuram.
The Secretary, Kerala State Electricity Board, Thiruvananthapuram
The Managing Director, KSRTC, Thiruvananthapuram
All Departments in the Secretariat including Law and Finance
The Web & New Media (for publishing in the Government Website)
The Director, Information & Public Relations Department (for wide
publicity through media)
Stock File / Office Copy.

Forwarded /By order

Signed by

Sabu T K

Date: 21-03-2026 16:44:18

Section Officer

Copy to :-

The Private Secretary to Chief Minister
The Private Secretary to Leader of Opposition.
The Private Secretary to Speaker/Deputy Speaker.
The Private Secretary to Ministers
The Additional Secretary to Chief Secretary