KERALA POLICE

ELECTION HAND BOOK FOR POLICE OFFICERS

ENGLISH



2026



FOREWARD

This Election Manual has been prepared as a comprehensive guide to assist police officers in understanding their roles and responsibilities during the entire electoral cycle-from pre-election preparations and enforcement of the Model Code of Conduct to poll day security and post-election duties. It consolidates relevant legal provisions, operational procedures, preventive strategies and best practices to promote consistency, clarity and efficiency in police enforcement.

I urge all officers to familiarize themselves thoroughly with the contents of this manual and to discharge their duties with integrity, impartiality and dedication. The credibility of the electoral process depends significantly on the professionalism and commitment of the police force. Through vigilant enforcement, proactive engagement with the community and seamless coordination with election authorities and civil administration, we can collectively ensure that elections are conducted smoothly, peacefully and in accordance with the rule of law.

I extend my best wishes to all personnel entrusted with election duties.

Ravada Azad Chandra Sekhar IPS
State Police Chief
Kerala

GENERAL DIRECTIONS TO POLICE

1. A special drive shall be launched to unearth and seize unlicensed arms and ammunition. A very thorough regular search and seizure of unlicensed arms shall be conducted and persons involved shall be arrested according to the legal provisions while unearthing and seizure of unlicensed weapons is a normal ongoing responsibility of the police, it shall be vigorously intensified during the election period.
2. Inter- State and Intrastate movements of trucks and commercial vehicles shall be strictly checked with a view to preventing smuggling of arms, ammunition and anti-

social elements. Close inter-state coordination shall be established, as required.

3. Strict vigil shall be maintained by police, thorough checking of lorries, light vehicles and all other vehicles, preferably by setting up equipped check posts, from the day of announcement of elections to ensure that no undesirable elements or arms and ammunition are being transported into the constituency from outside and to apprehend them and take appropriate action under law if they are doing so.
4. Critical polling stations require special attention and provide enhanced security measures in order to create a secured environment for the conduct of elections.

5. Identification of the Critical polling station should be completed 45 days before the date of poll and should be approved as soon as the Observers arrive in the districts.
6. Convene meetings of different stakeholders like RTO's, transport officials, various association representatives and agencies.
7. Preparation of detailed route map.
8. Ensure coordination with neighboring states.
9. Tracking of movement of illicit liquor and cash.
10. A detailed communication plan is a pre-requisite for effective performance of election duties. Prepare the plan separately for normal areas and for

extremism/ LWE affected, and inaccessible areas with challenging terrain.

11. A State Level communication cell should be established.

12. A District communication cell with sufficient staff should be established in each district for the control and coordination of communication related issues.

13. Proper procedure to be followed on seizure of cash and other valuables.

14. No Defacement of any form permitted on government premises except specifically earmarked places.

15. No Defacement on private places against the existing law or without consent of the owner.

16. No use of loudspeakers for publicity without specific permission before 6 am and beyond 10 pm on any day.

17. All meetings / processions for or campaigning activity should be video graphed for surveillance purpose and strict action as per law shall be taken in case of violation.

18. To ensure that elections are conducted in free fare and peaceful manner. The police authorities shall ensure thorough monitoring of social media platforms and take appropriate action as per the relevant provision of law.

19. No poster/ flag/ campaign materials are displayed on commercial

vehicles except in case of vehicles permitted for electioneering.

20. No wall writing , pasting of posters/papers defacement in any other form or erecting/ displaying cutouts, hoardings, banners, flags etc shall be permitted on any government property

21. Educational institutions (including grounds) not to be used for campaigning/ rallies.

22. In case of violation legal provisions relating to prevention of defacement of property penal action to be taken.

23. A register for permissions granted for meetings /processions etc shall be maintained.

24. “First come first” principle shall be followed strictly for granting of permissions.

25. Permissions shall be subject to local laws / prohibitory orders.

26. No public meeting / procession shall be allowed after the campaign period is over.

27. Permission for public rally shall not be given if the candidate does not produce prescribed documents.

28. No canvassing within Polling station or any public or private place within a distance of 100 meters of a polling station.

29. Prohibition of loudspeakers, mega phone etc within 100 mtrs of a polling station.

30. Mapping of border check posts with check posts of bordering states. Border check-posts should be CCTV guarded for effective monitoring.

31. Ensure timely border coordination meetings at district, sub-division and police station level with the counterparts in bordering states.

32. Special focus be kept in monitoring crucial places, keep them under surveillance like Railway Stations, Trucks, Buses, Ambulance, etc.

33. From the analysis of districts where significant seizure of cash was made in previous two elections, there should be special vigil of districts which exhibit high seizures.

34. Progress of electoral offenses in previous elections to be monitored promptly.

35. List of absconding and warranted persons with reference to liquor cases to be prepared and details to be shared with bordering states.

36. Searches and Seizure activities shall be video graphed to avoid any allegations.

37. Ensure that the security force has reached polling stations according to the force deployment plan.

38. Carry out effective and focused flag marches for area domination, point patrolling and other confidence building measures.

39. Strict vigil shall be maintained by police, thorough checking of lorries, light vehicles and all other vehicles, preferably by setting up equipped check posts, from the day of announcement of elections to ensure that no undesirable elements or arms and ammunition are being transported into the constituency from outside and to apprehend them and take appropriate action under law if they are doing so.

40. Guarding of Strong rooms: There shall be a two tier guarding system for strong rooms.

41. Security Arrangements in and Around Counting Centers: Three-tier cordoning system shall be set up in all

counting premises to prevent the entry of unauthorized persons inside the counting premises.

42. Victory Procession can be restricted/ regulated. Strong arrangements have to be made to ensure that people of varying factions don't clash.

43. The border meetings have to be initiated by the State Nodal Officer for Law and Order and must be held at two levels - State and District.

44. A dedicated VIP Security Monitoring Cell needs to be made functional at the state as well as district level.

45. Police officers and personnel are directed to remain complete neutral and

not show any favoritism towards any political party or candidate.

46. Any police officer found involved in political activities or campaigning is immediately removed from election duty, with strict disciplinary action taken.

47. The police are required to conduct effective and focused flag marches, area domination exercises, and patrolling to enhance confidence building measures among voters.

48. District Police Chiefs must conduct vulnerability mapping and assess critical polling stations to prevent voter intimidation.

49. Strict compliance with prohibitory orders is required, including obtaining

necessary permissions for public meetings, processions, and the use of loudspeakers.

50. A ban on carrying licensed arms is enforced until the declaration of results, and all existing arm licenses are reviewed.

51. The police are required to conduct special drives to unearth and seize illegal arms, ammunition, explosives, drugs, unaccounted cash, and illicit liquor.

52. Thorough checking of vehicles at equipped check posts is mandated to prevent the transport of undesirable elements or contraband from outside the state.

53. The Model code of conduct comes into force immediately upon the announcement of the election schedule,

and the police are responsible for its strict implementation.

54. Police work with the district administration to ensure the timely removal of political advertisements, flags, banners, and posters from government, public, and private property (without owner consent).

55. Police should regulate public meetings and processions ensuring traffic and security arrangements are in place after receiving advance information from political parties.

56. Victory processions are banned during and immediately after the counting of votes to avoid untoward incidents and maintain peace

57. A State level Nodal officer shall be appointed to streamline all election-related activities in coordination with the Chief Electoral Officer.

58. Implement a detailed force deployment plan, which includes the strategic placement of State Police and Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) as per the ECI's manual.

59. There is a clear instruction for proper coordination between the police/CAPF personnel and the Presiding Officers at police stations to handle any untoward incidents effectively.

OFFENCES RELATING TO ELECTIONS UNDER THE BHARATIYA NYAYA SANHITA, 2023

Sl no	Sections of BNS	Provisions	Cognizable/ Non-Cognizable
1	196 (1)	Promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language etc. and doing acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony	Cognizable
2	196 (2)	Promoting enmity between classes in place of Worship etc	Cognizable
3	170 & 173	Bribery (defined) and punishment for bribery	Non Cognizable
4	171 & 174	Undue influence at Election (defined) & it's punishment for undue influence at elections	Non Cognizable
5	172 &174	Personating at Election (defined) and punishment for personation at elections	Non Cognizable
6	175	False statement in connection with Election	Non Cognizable
7	176	Illegal payment in connection with Election	Non Cognizable
8	177	Failure to keep Election Accounts	Non Cognizable

OFFENCES UNDER THE REPRESENTATION OF PEOPLE'S ACT, 1951

Sl No	Section	Provisions	Cognizable/ Non Cognizable
1	125	Promoting enmity between classes in connection with election	Non Cognizable
2	125 A	Filling false affidavit	Non Cognizable
3	126	Prohibition of public meetings on the day preceding the election day and on the election day	Non Cognizable
4	127 (1)	Disturbances at election	Cognizable
5	128	Maintenance of secrecy of voting	Non Cognizable
6	129	Act of officers at election influencing voters for candidates	Cognizable
7	130	Prohibition within 100mts from polling station.	Cognizable
8	131	Penalty for misconduct disorderly conduct in or near polling stations	Non Cognizable
9	132 (3)	Penalty for misconduct at the polling station	Cognizable
10	132 A	Failure to observe procedure in voting	Non Cognizable
11	133	Penalty for illegal hiring or procuring of conveyance at elections	Non Cognizable
12	134	Breaches of officials duty in connection with elections	Cognizable
13	134 A	Penalty for Government servants to act as election/ polling/	Non Cognizable

		counting agents	
14	134 B	Prohibition of being armed to or near polling station	Cognizable
15	135 A	Offences of booth capturing	Cognizable
16	135 C	Liquor not to be sold/given/distributed on polling station	Non Cognizable
17	136 (2)	Other offences and penalties	Cognizable

LEGAL PROVISIONS UNDER THE ARMS ACT, 1959

Sl No	Sections	Provisions	Cognizable/ Non cognizable
1	25 (1)(a)	Manufactures sells, transfers converts, repairs, tests or exposes or offers or possess any arms or ammunitions	Cognizable
2	25(1-A)	Acquires or carries prohibited arms	Cognizable
3	25(1AA)	Manufactures, possess or sells etc, any prohibited arm	Cognizable
4	25(1 (C)	Committing any offence in disturbed areas	Cognizable
5	27(1)	Using arms in contraversion of Sec 5	Cognizable
6	27(2)	Using prohibited arms	Cognizable
7	27(3)	Using Arms in contravention Section 7 causing death	Cognizable

8	5	License for manufacture, sale, etc of arms and ammunition.	Cognizable
9	7	Prohibition of acquisition or possession or of manufacture or sale of prohibited arms or prohibited ammunition.	Cognizable

LEGAL PROVISIONS UNDER THE MOTOR VEHICLE ACT, 1988

Sec.177 General Provision for punishment of offences.

Sec.179 Disobedience of orders, obstruction and refusal of information.

Sec.180 Allowing unauthorized persons to drive vehicles.

Sec.181 Driving vehicles in contravention of section 3 or Section 4.

Sec.183 Driving at excessive speed etc.

Sec.184 Driving dangerously.

Sec.185	Driving by drunken person or by a person under the Influence of drugs.
Sec. 186	Driving when mentally or physically unfit to drive.
Sec. 187	Punishment for offences relating to accident.
Sec. 188	Punishment for abetment of certain offences.
Sec.190	Using vehicle in unsafe condition.
Sec.192	Using vehicle without registration.
Sec.192A	Using vehicle without permit.
Sec. 194	Driving vehicle exceeding permissible weight.
Sec.196	Driving uninsured vehicle.
Sec.197	Taking vehicle without authority.
Sec.200	Composition of certain offences.

Sec.201	Penalty for causing obstruction to free flow of traffic.
Sec.202	Power to arrest without warrant.
Sec.203	Breath tests.
Sec.205	Presumption of unfitness to drive.
Sec.206	Power of police Officer to impound document.
Sec.207	Power to detain vehicles used without certificate of registration, permit etc.

LEGAL PROVISIONS UNDER THE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ACT, 2000

In elections digital platform are widely used for election campaign, political advertising, messaging and mobilization at the same time there misused for fake news, misinformation hate speech, fake social media accounts and online voter intimidation.

Sec.65	Tampering with computer source documents
Sec.66(B)	Cheating by personation using computer (Used for fake social media profiles, impersonation of candidates, fraudulent message, seeking votes, money)
Sec.66(E)	Violation of Privacy (Publishing private images/ videos without consent)
Sec.67/67(A)	Obscene and sexually explicit content. (Circulation of obscene material on line to defame candidates, target women candidates etc)
Sec.69 A	Blocking of online content (Government power to block website, post, URLs. Used for fake news hate speech election misinformation)
Sec.73	Breach of confidentiality (Misuse of electronic data obtained lawfully leaks of

court data, misuse of election related digital information)

Sec.80 Power of police to enter, search etc

LEGAL PROVISIONS UNDER THE RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS PREVENTION OF MISUSE ACT 1988

Sec.1 Short Title, extent and comments

Sec.2 Definitions

Sec.3 Prohibition of use of religious institution for certain purpose

Sec.4 Restrictions on carrying arms and ammunition into a religious institution.

Sec.5 Prohibition of use of funds of religious Institutions for certain activities.

Sec.6 Prohibition of religious for propagating Political ideas

Sec.7 Penalties.

LEGAL PROVISIONS UNDER THE KERALA POLICE ACT 2011

Sec. 19 District Magistrate is allow to co -ordinate the police with other agencies in matters including the conduct of elections.

LEGAL PROVISIONS UNDER THE KERALA ANTISOCIAL ACTIVITIES (PREVENTION) ACT 2007

Sec.3 Detention Order: Govt or authorized officer may order preventive detention up to a period of 6 months.

Sec.15 Exterment–Vanishing a person from district or multiple districts up to a period of six months.

LEGAL PROVISIONS UNDER THE KERALA NOISE POLLUTION (REGULATION AND CONTROL) RULE 2000

Rule.5 Written permission required from competent authority for the use of loud speaker and amplifier.

As per the Election Commission Guide lines, loud speakers are allowed only between 6 AM to 10 PM. It is not allowed 48 hours before polling. No loud speakers are allowed near Polling Stations.

LEGAL PROVISIONS UNDER THE PREVENTION OF DAMAGE OF PUBLIC PROPERTY ACT 1980

Sec.3 Who ever commits mischief by damaging public property shall be punished with imprisonment up to five years and fine or both.

LEGAL PROVISIONS UNDER THE KERALA PREVENTION OF DISTURBANCES OF PUBLIC MEETING ACT 1961

Sec.2 Any person who acts in a disorderly manner interrupts or obstructs a public meeting causes disturbance by words gestures or conduct shall be punished with imprisonment up to six months or fine or both.

Sec.3 Police may remove any person causing disturbances .