स्वातंत्र्याचा अमृत महोत्सव

सावित्रीबाई फुले पुणे विद्यापीठ

(पूर्वीचे पुणे विद्यापीठ)

राष्ट्रीय सेवा योजना

गणेशखिंड, पुणे – ४११ ००७

प्रा.डॉ. गणेश भामे
एम्.ए., पीएच् डी.
संचालक (अतिरिक्त कार्यभार)

कार्यालय क्र. : ०२०-२५६२२६८८/८९
: ०२०-२५६२२६९०/९१
: ०२०-२५६२२६९२
: ०२०-२५६९७३४१

संदर्भ : रासेयो/२०२६—२७/३४३ दि. ०६/११/२०२६

प्रति,
मा.प्राचार्य/संचालक,
रासेयो संलग्नित सर्व महाविद्यालये परिसंस्था,
पुणे, अहिल्यानगर व नाशिक जिल्हा,
सावित्रीबाई फुले पुणे विद्यापीठ.

विषय: निवडणूक विषयक स्पर्धांचे आयोजन करणेबाबत..

संदर्भ: १.मा. उपजिल्हाधिकारी तथा स्वीप नोडल अधिकारी, जिल्हाधिकारी कार्यालय, पुणे यांचे दि. ०६ नोव्हेंबर, २०२६ रोजीचे पत्र
२. मा.कुलसचिव यांचे कार्यालयामार्फत संदर्भ क्र.१ पत्र दि. ०६ नोव्हेंबर, २०२६ रोजी मेलद्वारे अग्रेषित

महोदय,

उपरोक्त विषय आणि संदर्भीय पत्रान्वये आपणास कळविण्यात येते की मा.भारत निवडणूक आयोगाने दि. ०२ ते २० नोव्हेंबर २०२६ दरम्यान निवडणूक विषयक निबंध स्पर्धा व प्रश्नमंजुषा स्पर्धेचे आयोजन करण्याबाबत निर्देश देण्यात आले आहेत.

तरी आपल्या महाविद्यालयामार्फत जास्तीत जास्त विद्यार्थ्यांच्या सहभागातून सदर स्पर्धांचे आयोजन करण्यात यावेत. सदर उपक्रम यशस्वी करण्याकरिता आपल्यास्तरावर योग्य ती कार्यवाही करावी. सदर माहिती जास्तीत जास्त विद्यार्थीपर्यंत पोहचवावी आणि आपले संकेतस्थळ, सोशल मिडीया पेज तसेच WhatsApp ग्रुपद्वारे जनजागृती करावी. अधिक माहिती व उचित कार्यवाहीकरिता सोबतच्या पत्राचे अवलोकन करावे. कळावे, ही विनंती.

संचालक(अतिरिक्त कार्यभार)
राष्ट्रीय सेवा योजना

सोबत : वरिल संदर्भीय पत्र

उपजिल्हाधिकारी (भूसंपादन) क्र.17,पुणे यांचे कार्यालय
जिल्हाधिकारी कार्यालय, दुसरा मजला, बी. विंग ,पुणे

E Mail ID- sloa17pune@gmail.com

क्र.उपजिभूसं/१७/निवडणूक-१/कावि/ ३९/२०२६ दि. ०६/११/२०२६

प्रति,
सर्व विद्यापीठे/महाविद्यालये,
माध्यमिक व उच्च माध्यमिक शाळा

विषय:- निवडणूक विषयक स्पर्धांचे आयोजन करणेबाबत...

संदर्भ:-भारत निवडणूक आयोग यांचेकडील पत्र क्र. 491/SVEEP-I/ ELC-Comp/2026, दि. 30/10/2026

उपरोक्त संदर्भिय पत्रान्वये मा. भारत निवडणूक आयोगाने दि. 02/11/2026 ते दि. 20/11/2026 या कालावधीमध्ये निवडणूक विषयक निबंध स्पर्धा व प्रश्नमंजुषा स्पर्धेचे आयोजन करण्याबाबत निर्देश दिले आहेत. याबाबत मा. भारत निवडणूक आयोगाचे संदर्भिय पत्र तसेच निबंधाचा विषय व प्रश्नावली या पत्रासोबत जोडून पाठविण्यात येत आहे.

तरी संदर्भिय पत्रामध्ये निर्देशित केलेनुसार दि. 02/11/2026 ते 20/11/2026 या कालावधीमध्ये निवडणूक विषयक निबंध व प्रश्नमंजुषा स्पर्धेचे आपलेमार्फत आयोजन करण्यात यावे.

तसेच सदर स्पर्धांमध्ये जास्तीत जास्त विद्यार्थ्यांना सहभागी करून घेणेकामी आपले संकेतस्थळे, सोशल मिडिया पेजेस तसेच Whatsapp ग्रुपद्वारे स्पर्धांबाबत जनजागृती करण्यात यावी.

(अमिता तळेकर)
उपजिल्हाधिकारी तथा
स्वीप नोडल अधिकारी ,पुणे

प्रत:- १.मा. मुख्य निवडणूक अधिकारी , महाराष्ट् राज्य, मुंबई यांजकडे माहितीस्तव सविनय सादर.
२.उपजिल्हा निवडणूक अधिकारी , पुणे यांचेकडे माहितीसाठी.

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi – 110001

No. 491/SVEEP-I/ELC-Comp/2026 **Dated: 30th October 2026**

To,

The Chief Electoral Officers of all States and Union Territories.

Subject: Conduct of Essay and Quiz Competitions in Electoral Literacy Clubs (ELCs) from 2nd November 2026 to 20th November 2026 – reg.

Sir/Madam,

I am directed to state that Electoral Literacy Clubs (ELCs) in schools and colleges are a key platform for building an informed and participative culture among future and young voters. To deepen this engagement, it is decided that an **Essay Competition** and a **Quiz Competition** shall be conducted from **2 November 2026 to 20 November 2026** at three levels: institution, Assembly Constituency (AC) and district. The competitions shall be organized through the ELCs and shall be open to all students of schools and colleges that have an ELC.

1. Competitions

(a) Essay Competition on either of the following topics:

- "Importance of Pure Electoral Roll"
- "Importance of Voting"

Suggested word limits: 500–800 words for school ELCs and 800–1,200 words for college ELCs. Essays may be written in English, Hindi or the official language of the State/UT.

(b) Quiz Competition covering electoral roll preparation, EVM & VVPAT, the polling process and the counting process. A reference bank of 50 questions is enclosed at **Annexure-I**. ELCs may conduct the quiz in written (MCQ) format, and the questions may be translated into the local language.

Three-level format: Both competitions shall be held in three rounds, with the same topics at every level.

The students selected at the institution level shall qualify to participate in the AC-level competition, and those selected at the AC level shall, in turn, qualify to participate in the district-level competition.

Level	Conducted by	Who takes part	Selected for next level (per competition)
Institution	ELC coordinator	All interested students of the school/college	Top 2 students
Assembly Constituency	ERO office	Top 2 students from each institution in the AC	Top 10 students per AC
District (final)	DEO office	Top 10 students from each AC	Final top 10 winners per district

Overall coordination shall be by the **State/UT ELC Coordinator** (as designated and communicated vide the Commission's letter No. 491/ECI/LET/FUNC/SVEEP-I/ELC-Conf/2026 dated 9 September 2026).

To ensure originality, essays at the AC and district levels shall be written on the spot under supervision (suggested duration: 60 minutes). The quiz at the AC level may be a written MCQ test, and the district final may be held as a live quiz.

2. Timeline (Indicative, may decided by CEO office)

Stage	Dates
Launch of competitions	2 November 2026
Institution-level round and selection of 2 students per competition	2 – 7 November 2026
AC-level round and selection of 10 students per AC	10 – 13 November 2026
District-level final	16 – 18 November 2026
Declaration of results and issue of certificates	By 20 November 2026
Compliance report to the Commission (Annexure-II)	By 27 November 2026

3. Coordination

- **State level:** The State/UT ELC Coordinator shall be responsible for overall coordination and monitoring.
- **District level:** The District Election Officer (DEO), or the nodal ELC officer designated by the DEO, shall coordinate the district final, evaluation and publicity.
- **AC level:** The Electoral Registration Officer (ERO), or a designated AC-level ELC nodal officer, shall conduct the AC round.
- **Institution level:** ELC coordinators shall conduct the first round, collect entries, certify their originality and forward the names of the 2 selected students per competition to the ERO.

4. Eligibility and conditions of participation

- The competitions are open to all students of schools and colleges that have an ELC, whether or not they are ELC members. Participation shall be through the institution's ELC. Institutions without an ELC are encouraged to set one up.
- **Originality:** Entries must be the participant's own original work. Plagiarized, copied or AI-generated entries shall be disqualified. Each entry shall be certified as original by the ELC coordinator.
- **Use of content:** By participating, the participant agrees that the Election Commission of India, the CEO and the DEO may use, reproduce, translate and publish the entry, with due credit, for voter awareness purposes without any remuneration.
- **Non-partisan content:** Entries must not refer to any political party, candidate, party symbol or political ideology, and must not contain any defamatory, communal or objectionable content.
- **Consent for minors:** For participants below 18 years of age, written consent of the parent/guardian shall be obtained before their name, photograph or entry is published on social media.
- The decision of the evaluation committee shall be final.

5. Evaluation and selection

- **Institution level:** The ELC coordinator, along with one or two other teachers, shall evaluate entries and select the best 2 students in each competition.

- **AC level:** The ERO shall constitute a committee of educationists and a language expert to select the best 10 students per AC in each competition.
- **District level:** The DEO shall constitute a district evaluation committee including an educationist, a language expert and the district ELC nodal officer to select the final top 10 winners in each competition.
- **Essay evaluation criteria:** Content and relevance to the topic (40 marks), originality of thought (20), language and expression (20), structure and presentation (20).
- **Quiz:** Ranking shall be based on score; ties may be resolved through a tie-breaker round.
- CEOs may additionally select the best Ten essays at State/UT level and forward them to the Commission for possible featuring on ECI platforms.

6. Certificates

- **District winners:** Merit certificates to the final top 10 winners in each competition, issued by the DEO.
- **AC level:** Certificates of merit to the 10 students selected from each AC, issued by the ERO.
- **Institution level:** Participation certificates to all participants, issued by the ELC.

7. Publicity and social media

- Coverage of the competitions (photographs, short videos, highlights) shall be posted on the social media handles of the ELC, the DEO and the CEO.
- The top 10 winners of each district shall be featured on the social media handles of the ELC, DEO and CEO.
- Posts may use the hashtag **#ELCCompetition2026** and tag **@ECISVEEP**.
- The competition poster at **Annexure-III** may be adapted in the local language for wide circulation.

8. Reporting

A consolidated compliance report in the format at **Annexure-II**, along with the list of district winners and links to social media coverage, may be sent to the Commission by **27 November 2026** by State/UT ELC Coordinator .

Yours faithfully



Apurva Kumar Singh
Deputy Director

Enclosures:

1. Annexure-I – Reference Quiz question bank (50 questions)
2. Annexure-II –Reference Format for compliance report
3. Annexure-III –Reference Competition poster sample

ANNEXURE-I

Reference Bank of 50 Multiple-Choice Questions

Theme 1: Electoral Roll Preparation

Q1. Who is eligible for registration as an ordinary elector?

(a) Any resident who holds an Aadhaar card
(b) Any person who owns property in the constituency
(c) Any Indian citizen, regardless of age or residence
(d) ✓**An Indian citizen aged at least 18 on the qualifying date, ordinarily resident in the constituency and not disqualified by law**

Q2. Which forms are used for addition, deletion and modification of entries in the electoral roll?

(a) Form 1, Form 2, Form 3
(b) ✓**Form 6 for addition, Form 7 for deletion, Form 8 for modification, correction or updation**
(c) Form 8, Form 6, Form 6A
(d) One single form for everything

Q3. Can a person vote just by holding an EPIC, even if their name is not in the voter list?

(a) Yes
(b) ✓**No. Only those whose names are in the voter list of that polling station can vote**
(c) Only in the afternoon
(d) Only with a party letter

Q4. I just turned 18. Do I have to wait for SIR or SSR to register?

(a) Yes, only during SIR
(b) Yes, only during SSR
(c) ✓**No. You can apply any time by filling Form 6 under continuous updation**
(d) Only at age 21

Q5. Who is responsible for preparing electoral rolls for Parliamentary or Assembly constituencies?

(a) The Returning Officer (RO)
(b) The District Election Officer (DEO)
(c) ✓**The Electoral Registration Officer (ERO)**
(d) The Chief Electoral Officer (CEO)

Q6. For a new voter turning 18, what are the four qualifying dates for registration?

(a) 1 January only

(b) ✓**1 January, 1 April, 1 July and 1 October**

(c) 15 August and 26 January

(d) Any birthday

Q7. During SIR, what is the Draft Electoral Roll?

(a) The final voter list used on polling day

(b) ✓**The first draft of the roll, prepared after house-to-house enumeration is completed. Claims and objections follow, so entries can be checked and corrected before the final roll is published**

(c) A list of people who cannot vote

(d) A list kept secret by the Election Commission

Q8. Does filing Form 7 alone automatically mean that a person's name has been deleted from the electoral roll?

(a) Yes, immediately in every case

(b) ✓**No, the application is subject to the prescribed verification and speaking order by ERO**

(c) Yes, without any examination

(d) Yes, if the applicant is a political worker

Q9. Who acts as a concurrent auditor during the preparation and revision of electoral rolls?

(a) Polling Agents appointed by candidates

(b) ✓**Booth Level Agents (BLAs) appointed by recognised political parties**

(c) Counting Agents appointed by candidates

(d) Presiding Officers at polling stations

Q10. I am not satisfied with the ERO's decision on my name. What can I do?

(a) Nothing, the decision is final

(b) ✓**Appeal under Section 24 of the RP Act, 1950, first to the District Magistrate and then to the Chief Electoral Officer**

(c) Only approach a political party

(d) Wait for the next SIR

Q11. What is the principal difference between Special Intensive Revision (SIR) and Special Summary Revision (SSR) of electoral rolls?

(a) SIR is conducted only for new voters, while SSR is conducted only for existing voters

(b) SSR removes all existing electoral-roll entries and prepares a completely new list

(c) ✓**SIR involves extensive house-to-house enumeration and verification, while SSR ordinarily updates existing rolls through draft publication, claims and objections without a full house-to-house enumeration**
(d) SIR is conducted by political parties, while SSR is conducted by election officials

Q12. Do political parties get copies of the electoral roll?

(a) No
(b) Yes, but they must pay for them
(c) ✓**Yes, free of cost: one hard copy and one soft copy of each part, after draft and final publication.**
(d) Only the ruling party gets them

Q13. In which years was Intensive Revision of electoral rolls conducted in India before the SIR exercise of 2025–26?

(a) Only in 1952–56 and 2002–04

(b) Only in 1983–84, 1987–89 and 2002–04

(c) ✓**In 1952–56, 1957, 1961, 1965, 1966, 1983–84, 1987–89, 1992, 1993, 1995, 2002, 2003 and 2004**

(d) Only in 1992, 1993, 1995 and 2004

Q14. Who has the authority to approve the addition or deletion of names in the electoral roll through ECINET?

(a) ECINET software automatically decides based on available data

(b) Booth Level Officers (BLOs) can directly add or delete names

(c) ✓**Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) take decisions as per law; ECINET only facilitates the process**

(d) Political parties can approve changes through their Booth Level Agents (BLAs)

Theme 2: EVM & VVPAT

Q15. What does EVM stand for?

(a) Electronic Voting Mechanism
(b) Election Verification Machine
(c) ✓**Electronic Voting Machine**
(d) Electoral Vote Monitor

Q16. Which units make up the ECI-EVM system?

(a) Ballot Unit and Result Unit
(b) ✓**Ballot Unit, Control Unit and VVPAT**
(c) Control Unit and Printer only
(d) Display Unit and Memory Unit

Q17. Is the ECI-EVM connected to the internet or any external network?

(a) Yes, during polling only
(b) Yes, during counting only
(c) ✓**No, it is a standalone machine**
(d) Yes, through Bluetooth

Q18. For how many seconds is the VVPAT slip visible to the voter?

(a) 3
(b) 5
(c) ✓**7**
(d) 15

Q19. What details are printed on the VVPAT slip?

(a) Voter's name and EPIC number
(b) ✓**Serial number, name and symbol of the candidate**
(c) Polling station number only
(d) Party leader's name

Q20. Which two public sector undertakings manufacture ECI-EVMs?

(a) HAL and BHEL
(b) ✓**BEL and ECIL**
(c) ISRO and DRDO
(d) BSNL and ITI

Q21. What powers the ECI-EVM at the polling station?

(a) Mains electricity
(b) Solar panel
(c) Generator
(d) ✓**Its own battery power pack**

Q22. What is the minimum number of votes cast in a mock poll at each polling station before actual polling?

(a) 10
(b) 25
(c) ✓**50**
(d) 100

Q23. Why is randomisation of EVMs done before elections?

(a) To save time
(b) To reduce cost
(c) ✓**So nobody can know in advance which EVM goes to which constituency or polling station**
(d) To test battery life

Q24. How many levels of randomisation are done for allotting EVMs?

(a) One
(b) ✓**Two, first to Assembly Constituency, then to polling station**
(c) Three
(d) None

Q25. By Supreme Court order of 2019, VVPAT slips of how many randomly selected polling stations per Assembly segment must be counted?

(a) 1
(b) 3
(c) ✓**5**
(d) 10

Q26. What is the main purpose of First-Level Checking (FLC) of EVMs?

(a) To train polling agents
(b) ✓**To check the functionality and suitability of machines for election use**
(c) To count votes before polling
(d) To finalise election results

Q27. Which features were introduced in M3 EVMs?

(a) Internet connectivity and GPS
(b) Fingerprint scanner
(c) ✓**Tamper detection and self-diagnostics**
(d) Wireless printing

Theme 3: Polling Process

Q28. On which finger is indelible ink normally applied before a voter votes?

(a) Right thumb
(b) Right forefinger
(c) ✓**Left forefinger**
(d) Left thumb

Q29. What is the primary role of Polling Agents appointed by candidates on polling day?

(a) To operate EVMs on behalf of voters
(b) To prepare and modify the electoral roll
(c) ✓**To observe the polling process and help ensure that prescribed procedures are followed**
(d) To declare the election results

Q30. What happens to voters already in the queue at the closing time of polling?

(a) They must return the next day
(b) They are turned away
(c) ✓**They are given slips and allowed to vote as per the prescribed procedure**
(d) Only senior citizens may vote

Q31. What is the general maximum number of electors permitted at a polling station under ECI's revised norms?

(a) 1,000
(b) ✓**1,200**
(c) 1,500
(d) 2,000

Q32. At the end of polling, who is entitled to the prescribed copy of Form 17C Part 1 (Account of Votes Recorded)?

(a) The general public
(b) Only local police
(c) ✓**Polling agents of the contesting candidates present at the polling station at Close of Poll**
(d) Only the media

Q33. What changes have been introduced in EVM ballot papers to help voters identify candidates more easily?

(a) Candidates' names have been replaced with symbols
(b) ✓**Colour photographs of candidates, bold serial numbers and larger, uniform fonts**
(c) Candidates are arranged according to their age
(d) Only the names of political parties are displayed

Q34. What is the purpose of the mobile-phone deposit facility introduced at polling stations?

(a) To allow voters to use their phones inside the voting compartment

(b) To enable polling officials to verify voters' mobile-phone records

(c) ✓**To allow voters to safely deposit their mobile phones outside the polling station and collect them after voting, while maintaining secrecy of voting**

(d) To allow voters to photograph their votes before leaving the polling station

Q35. Which form must eligible electors submit to request the home-voting facility?

(a) Form 6
(b) Form 8
(c) ✓**Form 12D**
(d) Form 17C

Q36. Which categories of electors are eligible for the optional home-voting facility?

(a) All electors aged 60 years and above
(b) All first-time voters and government employees
(c) ✓**Electors aged 85 years and above and eligible Persons with Benchmark Disabilities (PwDs)**
(d) All electors living more than 2 km from a polling station

Q37. What is done after the mock poll?

(a) Mock votes are added to the count
(b) The EVM is replaced
(c) ✓**The result is cleared from the Control Unit and mock-poll VVPAT slips are removed, stamped and sealed separately**
(d) Nothing is done

Q38. What happens if a Polling Agent formally challenges an elector's identity at a polling station?

(a) ✓**The Presiding Officer conducts a summary inquiry under the prescribed procedure and decides whether the elector may vote**
(b) The Polling Agent can immediately cancel the elector's registration
(c) The elector is automatically prohibited from voting without inquiry
(d) The Returning Officer must immediately order a re-poll

Q39. Which initiative aims to minimise discrepancies between provisional and final voter turnout figures?

(a) Mandatory counting of all VVPAT slips
(b) Publication of voter turnout only after counting
(c) ✓**Direct reporting of voter turnout by Presiding Officers on ECINET every two hours, with a final update after polling closes**
(d) Automatic calculation of turnout by EVMs

Theme 4: Counting Process

Q40. Which safeguards protect polled EVMs and VVPATs in strong rooms?

(a) Storage under the supervision of polling agents only
(b) ✓**Double locks, round-the-clock two-tier security, CCTV and provision for candidates' representatives to keep watch**
(c) A single lock with security during office hours
(d) Storage in the Returning Officer's office without additional security

Q41. What is the purpose of counting agents at a counting centre?

(a) ✓**To observe and scrutinise the counting process on behalf of candidates, under the rules**
(b) To announce the result before counting begins
(c) To alter votes recorded on EVMs
(d) To issue voter-registration certificates

Q42. What is the purpose of the QR code-based identity verification system at counting centres?

(a) To count votes electronically through QR codes
(b) To allow voters to monitor counting online
(c) ✓**To verify the identity of authorised persons and prevent unauthorised entry into counting centres**
(d) To replace the counting agents of candidates

Q43. What is the purpose of post-poll scrutiny of Form 17A and related polling-day documents?

(a) To change the votes recorded on EVMs
(b) To identify which candidate each elector voted for
(c) ✓**To detect discrepancies or malpractice and recommend a re-poll where required**
(d) To replace the counting of votes

Q44. How are polling stations for VVPAT slip counting selected?

(a) By the candidate
(b) By the Observer alone

(c) ✓**By draw of lots by the Returning Officer in the presence of candidates or their agents**

(d) By the manufacturer

Q45. What is Form 20 in the election counting process?

(a) A form used to request voter registration

(b) ✓**The Final Result Sheet recording polling-station-wise candidate vote totals and other prescribed counting particulars**

(c) A form used to appoint Polling Agents

(d) A form used to request a postal ballot

Q46. When is the counting of postal ballots to be completed?

(a) After all EVM rounds

(b) ✓**Before the penultimate (second-last) round of EVM counting**

(c) A week after counting

(d) They are not counted

Q47. Under the First-Past-the-Post (FPTP) system used in Lok Sabha and State Assembly elections, which candidate is declared elected?

(a) The candidate who secures more than 50% of the total votes in every case

(b) The candidate nominated by the political party forming the government

(c) ✓**The candidate who secures the highest number of valid votes in the constituency**

(d) The candidate who receives the highest number of second-preference votes

Q48. What happens if two candidates secure exactly the same highest number of votes after counting is completed?

(a) Both candidates are declared elected

(b) A fresh election is automatically conducted

(c) ✓**The Returning Officer decides between them by drawing lots, as provided under Section 65 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951**

(d) The older candidate is declared elected

Q49. Which candidates can request verification of an EVM's burnt memory/microcontroller after results?

(a) Only the winner

(b) ✓**Candidates who finished second or third**

(c) Any voter

(d) Only independent candidates

Q50. Within what period can a Parliamentary or State Assembly election be challenged through an election petition, and before which court?

(a) Within 30 days, before the District Court
(b) Within 60 days, before the Supreme Court
(c) Within 90 days, before the Election Commission
(d) ✓**Within 45 days, before the competent High Court**

Annexure-II: Format for compliance report

State/UT: _____

S. No.	District	No. of institutions participated	Institution-level participants (Essay / Quiz)	AC-level participants (Essay / Quiz)	District finalists (Essay / Quiz)	Top 10 winners list attached (Y/N)	Social media links
1							
2							
	Total						

(Signature of **State/UT ELC Coordinator**, office of the CEO)

Annexure III

