

ELN-UNA-5-4/2018- 469

Dated: 04/03/2019

From:

The District Election Officer (DC)  
Una, District Una.

To

The Deputy Director,  
Higher Education, Una,  
(District SVEEP Nodal Officer)  
District Una.

Subject:- Establishment of Chunav Pathshala (ELC Communities) at every Polling Station  
Location-regarding.

Sir,

On the subject cited above, I am to enclose herewith the copy of Chief Electoral Officer, Himachal Pradesh letter No. 6-25/2018-ELN-538, dated 27-02-2019 as received in this office regarding Establishment of Chunav Pathshala (ELC Communities) at every Polling Station Location of this district.

This is for your kind information and strict compliance please.

Your faithfully,

Encls(As above)

✓ District Election Officer (DC),  
Una, District Una.  
Dated: 04/03/2019

Endst. No. ELN-UNA-5-4/2018- 469 - 70

Copy forwarded to:

1. The Chief Electoral Officer, Himachal Pradesh, Shimla for information.
2. All the EROs(SDMs) for information and necessary action please.

✓ District Election Officer (DC),  
Una, District Una.

Endst. No: - EDN-U (G-4R) Election/Vol-3/ 2019/- 11226  
Office of the Deputy Director of Higher Education,  
Una Distt. Una (HP).

Dated

Una

14 March, 2019

All the Principals/ Headmasters of Govt. Senior Secondary Schools/ High Schools in Una Distt. for information and necessary action.

✓ Dy. Director of Higher Education,  
Una Distt. Una (HP).

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# ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi – 110 001

No. 491/ECI/LET/FUNC/SVEEP-III/EL/Chunav Pathshala/2019

Dated: 07<sup>th</sup> February, 2019

To

The Chief Electoral Officers of  
All States/UTs

**Sub: Establishment of Chunav Pathshala (ELC Communities) at every Polling Station Location - reg**

Madam/Sir,

The Commission has directed for setting up of Chunav Pathshala at every Polling Station location. In this regard please also refer to Commission's letter No. 491/ECI/LET/SVEEP-I/EL/ELC/2017 dated 03<sup>rd</sup> November, 2017 regarding setting up of ELCs in schools/colleges/Institutions, Chunav Pathshalas in communities and VAFs in organizations.

2. The Booth Awareness Groups (BAG) shall be replaced by the Chunav Pathshalas at every PS level as specified in Commission's Letter No. 491/ECI/LET/FUNC/SVEEO-II/LS-2019/2018 dated 10<sup>th</sup> January, 2019.

**I. OBJECTIVES:** As given in the ELC programme and the Resource Guide on Chunav Pathshala, the objective for Chunav Pathshala are as follows:

- i. Educate the targeted populations about voter registration, electoral process and related matters through hands on experience;
- ii. EVM and VVPAT familiarization and education about robustness of EVM and integrity of the electoral process using EVMs;
- iii. To help the target audience to understand the value of their vote and exercise their suffrage right in a confident, comfortable and ethical manner;
- iv. To harness the potential of ELC members for carrying the electoral literacy in communities;
- v. To facilitate voter registration for its eligible members who are not yet registered
- vi. To develop a culture of electoral participation and maximize the informed and ethical voting and follow the principle '*Every vote counts*' and '*No Voter to be Left Behind*'

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- II. **STRUCTURE:** *Chunav Pathshala* shall be named as per the name of the polling station and will be set up and coordinated by the Booth Level Officer (BLO).
- III. **MEMBERS & PARTICIPANTS:** *Chunav Pathshala* will be open to all. However, it must include the following target groups:
- i. Future voters of age group 14-17 years that are school dropouts
  - ii. New Voters in the 18-19 years age group
  - iii. Women folk (young and middle aged)
  - iv. Senior Citizens
  - v. Persons with Disabilities (if any)
  - vi. Children below 14 years who are outside schools
  - vii. Other groups specific to the area (e.g. Tribals)

The enrollment of members will be carried out with the help field functionaries of the government besides non-political CSOs and volunteers. Voluntary help by teachers, NLM functionaries, Panchayat officials or the Municipal officials (Non elected) of that Polling Station area may be taken for enrollment. BLO with the help of the Convener must maintain a register of membership. The register must be updated and signed by the Convener and BLO at the end of every quarter.

- IV. **BLO AS NODAL OFFICER:** The respective Booth Level Officer (BLO) will act as Nodal Officer for the *Chunav Pathshala*.
- V. **CONVENER:** BLO shall identify a Convener for the ELC from among the community itself. Convener must be educated. The Convener will be named as *Matdata Prashikshak*. The role of the *Matdata Prashikshak* shall be as given at point 6 of the Resource Guide. Teacher and Preraks under NLMA may be preferred. Alternatively young members from National Service Scheme (NSS), Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) and notable NGOs may be taken as Conveners. They will be trained by a Master Trainer. The BLO may also act as the convener of the *Pathshala*. The State may decide whether the convener shall be a volunteer or the BLO himself/herself.
- VI. **VENUE:** The Venue will mostly be the Polling Station location of the last Lok Sabha or the Assembly Election or any other venue identified by the BLO. The *Pathshala* may be held out in an open ground where a significant number of participants can be accommodated. The location should be easily accessible and popular so that the participants can easily identify and attend. Alternate location venues for the *Chunav Pathshala* are given at point 7 of the Resource Guide.

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**VII. PATHSHALA CONDUCT:**

- i. **Day and Time:** *Chunav Pathshala* will be held once in two months with the members meeting every First Saturday of the alternate month and may begin anywhere between 2 – 4pm. Alternatively, BLO can suggest an appropriate day and time for the *Pathshala* to be convened. However, adherence to a fixed venue and time would provide continuity and strengthen attendance and help participants to be regular. *Pathshala* shall be convened more frequently during pre-poll period.
- ii. **Frequency:** 6 *Pathshalas* shall be organized every alternate month. In addition there will be 3 additional activities for larger community engagement. After every 2 informative *Chunav Pathshala*, one activity will follow for larger community engagement. The schedule of Activities is given at point 10 of the Resource Guide. However in-view of upcoming elections, community activity as given in the Resource Guide as 20(xi-xiii) may be conducted for community engagement.
- iii. **Session Structure:** Every session of the *Chunav Pathshala* will follow the structure given in Resource Guide at point 14, comprising Assembly; Reciting *Pathshala* Song; Activity of the Day, 3-2-1 Summary and Recall and Conclusion. The *Pathshala* shall end with the convener telling a short story from the Belief in the Ballot imparting learning in sync with the activity conducted in the session.
- iv. **Elements:** The *Chunav Pathshala* will be a one of its kind classroom with a festive and colourful mood. The elements of the *Pathshala* are given at point 12 of Resource Guide.
- v. **Accessible:** The ELCs will be an inclusive club that must make every attempt to ensure the participation of students with disabilities.

**VIII. MATDATA MITRA:** *Chunav Pathshala* will give a unique opportunity to proactive citizens to assume the role of '*Matdata Mitra*', a friend who will guide the community members in the electoral process and motivate them to enroll and vote. Selection, Role and appreciation as per the guideline given in Resource Guide at point 16. *Matdata Mitr* can also be taken as Volunteer on Poll Day.

**IX. INAUGURATION & LAUNCH ACTIVITY:** BLO will make arrangements for publicity of the launch of the *Chunav Pathshala* in the community. Essential components of the inauguration shall be as given at point 17 of the Resource Guide.

**X. COMMUNITY RADIO:** Community Radio may be made an integral part of ELC and the team running the Community Radio may be invited to take sessions at the *Pathshala* and also cover the key learnings in their programmes.


**XI. MONITORING:** An effective monitoring mechanism shall be devised by the CEO and DEOs. CEOs must also take up impact assessment periodically to evaluate the performance of the *Chunav Pathshala*. ECI is already conducting assessment studies.



3. It may be recalled that training of ELC Master Trainers was completed at ECI last year and States were directed to complete training at all levels up till the Convenor of the ELC/Chunav Pathshala.
4. CEOs are requested to ensure Chunav Pathshalas are established at all PS locations and they are provided adequate resources including the Chunav Pathshala kit comprising the Resource Guide in local language and translated games and accessories besides any other local resource developed by the CEO/DEO.
5. The soft copy of the Resource Guide and Games/accessories are available at <http://ecisveep.nic.in/files/category/12-elcs/>. Short video training modules are also available on the portal and may be shared with Convenors.
6. Updated data on ELCs/CPs may be provided in the various Reporting Formats being sent to ECI.

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Yours Sincerely

  
(Padma Angmo)  
Director

Copy to:

Sr PPS to CEC/EC(L)  
Sr PPS to Sr DEC(US)/DECs/DGs  
Zonal Sections

