



## GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

### Abstract

Taxes Department - General Election to Kerala Legislative Assembly,2026 - Declaration of 'Dry Day' - Orders issued.

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### TAXES (A) DEPARTMENT

G.O.(Rt)No.332/2026/TAXES Dated,Thiruvananthapuram, 19-03-2026

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Read 1 Letter No.576/14/2026/EPS dated, 16.03.2026 from the Election Commission of India.

2 Letter No.EL3/65/2026-ELEC dated 16.03.2026 from the Chief Electoral Officer, Kerala.

### ORDER

The Election Commission of India, as per the letter read as 1<sup>st</sup> paper above, has informed that General Election to the Kerala Legislative Assembly-2026 was announced vide its Press Note No.ECI/PN/029/2026 dated 15.03.2026. The date of poll is 09.04.2026 (Thursday) and the date of counting is 04.05.2026 (Monday). Therefore, the Election Commission of India directed the State Government to declare 'Dry Day' during 48 hours, ending with the hours fixed for conclusion of Poll with respect to the polling day and in the date of re-poll, if any. It has also been directed to declare 'Dry Day' on the date on which counting of votes is to be taken up .

2. Section 135C of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 provides that no spirituous, fermented or intoxicating liquor or other substances of like nature shall be sold, given or distributed at a hotel, eating house, tavern, shop or any other place, public or private, within a polling area during the period of forty-eight hours ending with the hour fixed for the conclusion of poll for any election in the polling area.

3. As directed by the Election Commission of India, Government hereby order 'Dry Day' in the State of Kerala, during 48 hours ending with the hours fixed for the conclusion of poll with respect to polling day, ie 09.04.2026 (Thursday) and the day including the date of re-poll, if any. It is also ordered that the counting day on 4.5.2026 (Monday) will also be a 'Dry Day' in the State of Kerala.

4. During the 'Dry Days', no spirituous, fermented or intoxicating

liquors or other substances of a like nature are to be sold, given or distributed at a hotel, eating house, tavern, shop or any other public or private place within the polling area. No liquor shops, hotels, restaurants, clubs and other establishments selling/serving liquor, are permitted to sell / serve liquor to anyone whosoever, on the aforesaid days. Non proprietary clubs, star hotels, restaurants etc. and hotels run by anyone, even if they are issued with different categories of licenses for possession and supply of liquor, are not permitted to serve liquor on these days. The storage of liquor by individuals should be curtailed during the above period and the restrictions provided in the Excise-law on the storage of liquor in unlicensed premises should be vigorously enforced. Steps should also be taken to prohibit clandestine movement of liquor from adjoining areas of the State of Kerala. The storage of liquor by individuals is also prohibited.

5. The Excise Commissioner should issue necessary instructions to the officials concerned to rigorously comply with this Order.

(By order of the Governor)  
K R JYOTHILAL  
ADDITIONAL CHIEF SECRETARY

To:

1. The Election Commission of India, Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi -110 001.
2. The Chief Electoral Officer, Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram
3. The Excise Commissioner, Thiruvananthapuram.
4. The State Police Chief, Thiruvananthapuram.
5. The Chairperson and Managing Director, Kerala State Beverages Corporation, Thiruvananthapuram.
6. All District Collectors.
7. The Managing Director, Kerala State Co-operative Consumers' Federation Ltd. Gandhinagar, Ernakulam, Kochi-682020
8. The Information and Public Relations Department (Web & New Media),
9. Stock File/Office Copy.(File No A2/104/2026-Taxes)

Forwarded /By order

Section Officer