

**PRESS RELEASE**

The poll for the Bye-election to Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly from 98.Erode (East) Assembly Constituency will be held on 27.02.2023 from 7.00 A.M. to 6.00 P.M. The Election Commission of India has issued the following restrictions which will apply to publication and dissemination of results of Opinion poll / Exit poll during the above bye-election:-

- i) The Election Commission of India has stated that Section 126A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 (in short R.P. Act, 1951) specifies that *“(1) No person shall conduct any exit poll and publish or publicise by means of the print or electronic media or disseminate in any other manner, whatsoever, the result of any exit poll during such period, as may be notified by the Election Commission in this regard.*

*(2) For the purposes of sub-section (1), the Election Commission shall, by a general order, notify the date and time having due regard to the following, namely:-*

*(a) in case of a general election, the period may commence from the beginning of the hours fixed for poll on the first day of poll and continue till half an hour after closing of the poll in all the States and Union territories;*

*(b) in case of a bye-election or a number of bye-elections held together, the period may commence from the beginning of the hours fixed for poll on and from the first day of poll and continue till half an hour after closing of the poll;*

*Provided that in case of a number of bye-elections held together on different days, the period may commence from the beginning of the hour fixed for poll on the first day of poll and continue till half an hour after closing of the last poll.*

- (3) Any person who contravenes the provisions of this section shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extent to two years or with fine or with both”.*

- ii) The Election Commission of India has stated that in exercise of the powers under sub-section (1) of Section 126A of the R.P. Act, 1951, the Election Commission, having regard to the provisions of sub-Section (2) of the said Section, hereby notifies the period between **7.00 A.M. on 16<sup>th</sup> February, 2023 (Thursday) and 7.00 PM on 27<sup>th</sup> February, 2023 (Monday)** as the period during which conducting and publishing or publicizing exit poll by means of the print or electronic media or dissemination in any other manner, whatsoever, the result of any exit poll in connection with the aforesaid General Elections and bye-elections, shall be prohibited.
- iii) The Election Commission of India has further clarified that under Section 126(1)(b) of the R.P. Act, 1951, displaying any election matter including results of any opinion poll or any other poll survey, in any electronic media, would be prohibited during the period of 48 hours ending with the hour fixed for conclusion of poll in connection with General Elections and bye-elections.

CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER  
TAMIL NADU.

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