

Panaji, 20th March, 2020 (Phalguna 30, 1941)

SERIES II No. 51


OFFICIAL GAZETTE
GOVERNMENT OF GOA
 PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

EXTRAORDINARY

GOVERNMENT OF GOA

Department of Panchayati Raj and
 Community Development
 Office of Secretary (Panchayats)

—
Order

No. 19/DP/Z.P. Election/2019-20/931

Whereas the Hon'ble Prime Minister had detailed interaction with all the Chief Ministers of respective States via Video Conferencing.

And whereas in the said interaction, it was specifically pointed out that all social interactions must be avoided at this crucial stage of encountering the menace of Covid-19 virus.

And whereas after considering the above instructions of Hon'ble Prime Minister and the Central Government, the Government of Goa is satisfied that the elections to Zilla Panchayat scheduled on 22nd March, 2020 are required to be postponed to avoid social interactions, as aforesaid.

And whereas it is not possible for obtaining the prior approval of the State Election Commission in view of the risk involved to the public and the short

time available and emergency and the urgency involved in the matter.

And whereas the Government is satisfied that the circumstances exist to invoke powers under Rule 10 (4) of the Goa Panchayati Raj (Procedure) Rules to postpone and cancel the elections scheduled on 22nd March, 2020.

And whereas the Government hereby dispenses with the requirement of obtaining prior sanction of the State Election Commission for the reasons, as aforesaid.

Now therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred under Rule 10 (4) of the said Rules, the elections to the Zilla Panchayat in the State of Goa scheduled on 22nd March, 2020 are hereby postponed and the next date for holding the said elections will be announced by the Government in consultation with the State Election Commission.

It is hereby clarified that the entire election process up to the stage of campaigning will be valid and only the date of polling has been postponed to a date which will be notified by the Government subsequently, in consultation with State Election Commission.

Sanjay Gihar, Secretary (Panchayats).

Porvorim, 20th March, 2020.

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Printed and Published by the Director, Printing & Stationery,
 Government Printing Press,
 Mahatma Gandhi Road, Panaji-Goa 403 001.

PRICE – Rs. 1.00

PRINTED AT THE GOVERNMENT PRINTING PRESS, PANAJI-GOA—402/160—3/2020.