संघ राज्य प्रशासन, लद्दाख
संभागीय आयुक्त का कार्यालय,
केंद्र शासित प्रदेश सचिवालय, लद्दाख
यूटी सचिवालय, लद्दाख
ई-मेल/email:divcom-ladakh@ladakh.gov.in

THE ADMINSTRATION OF UNION TERRITORY OF
LADAKH OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL COMMISSIONER,
UT SECRETARIAT, LADAKH
Phone No:01982 -259305

To,
The Deputy Commissioners,
Leh, Kargil, Nubra, Sham, Sankoo, Drass, Changthang and Zanskar.

DivCom/UTL/Ele/2026/43-45 **Dated: 26.11.2026**

Subject: Home Voting Facility for Persons with Disabilities and Senior Citizens – LAHDC Elections, 2026.

Sir/Madam,

I am directed to enclose herewith the order received from the State Election Commission, designating 30th November, 2026 and 1st December, 2026, from 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM, as the dates and hours for the home voting facility by Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) and Senior Citizens.

You are requested to kindly bring the contents of the said order to the notice of all recognised political parties and contesting candidates and take necessary action to ensure the smooth and effective implementation of the home voting facility in your respective jurisdictions.

Yours faithfully,

Shabbir Hussain, JKAS
Additional Commissioner, Ladakh

Copy to :-

1. OSD to the Chief Secretary, UT Ladakh
2. PA to the Divisional Commissioner, Ladakh

STATE ELECTION COMMISSION
LADAKH
F-Block, 1st Floor, M.S. Apartments,
Kasturba Gandhi Marg,
New Delhi – 110 001

No. 10-2/EC/LD/2026/686 Dated: 26.11. 2026

ORDER

Whereas the Administrator, Union Territory of Ladakh, vide Notification dated 10.11.2026, has called upon all the constituencies of the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils in the Union Territory of Ladakh to constitute the new Councils; and

Whereas the State Election Commission, Ladakh, vide Notification dated 10.11.2026, has appointed the last date for filing of nominations, the date for scrutiny, the date of poll and other dates for the said election;

Now, therefore, in order to facilitate the exercise of the right to vote by senior citizens above the age of 80 years and Persons with Disabilities(PwDs) identified by Social Welfare Department of Administration of Union Territory of Ladakh for its schemes the State Election Commission, Ladakh, in exercise of the powers conferred upon it under Section 4A of the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils Act, 1997, as amended by Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils (Amendment) Regulations 2026, hereby declares **30th November 2026 and 1st December 2026**, between **7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.**, as the dates and hours during which such electors may cast their votes, in accordance with the Standard Operating Procedures enclosed as **Annexure-1** to this Order.

(Sudhanshu Pandey)
State Election Commissioner

Home Voting Facility
for Persons with Disabilities (PwD) and Senior Citizens
Elections to the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils

1. OBJECTIVE

This SOP lays down the procedure for enabling eligible Persons with Disabilities (PwD) and Senior Citizens to vote from home through ballot papers in the elections to the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils (LAHDCs). It is intended for better participation and to ensure that every eligible elector is able to exercise the right to vote in a convenient, dignified and secure manner.

The objective of this facility is to ensure that no eligible elector is left behind on account of disability or advanced age. Returning Officers, Election Officers and BLOs shall make every reasonable effort to facilitate home voting while strictly maintaining the secrecy and integrity of the ballot. Any doubts shall be referred promptly to the State Election Commission, Ladakh.

2. ELIGIBILITY

Category	Eligibility Criteria
Person with Disability (PwD)	Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) as identified by Social Welfare Department of Administration of Union Territory of Ladakh for its schemes.
Senior Citizen	An elector who is above 80 years of age. The age as recorded in the electoral roll is sufficient; no additional certificate or undertaking is required.

3. APPLICATION PROCESS (FORM 13A)

3.1 Who applies

Eligible PwD and Senior Citizen electors who wish to vote from home must apply in Form 13A (Letter of intimation for absentee voters).

3.2 How the form reaches the elector

- The Returning Officer / Election Officer shall identify eligible electors (PwD flagged in the roll and Senior Citizens above 80 years) from the electoral roll database.
- Booth Level Officers (BLOs) or designated staff shall visit the residences of such electors, deliver Form 13A, explain the facility and get the Form filled there itself and submit the same to the concerned RO.
- Electors may also obtain Form 13A on their own and submit it to the BLO before 28th November 2026.

3.3 Documents to be attached

- For PwD: Copy of disability certificate (benchmark disability), if available.
- For Senior Citizen (above 80 years): No additional certificate is required; age as per electoral roll is sufficient.

4. STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

Step	Action
1	**Identification of Eligible Electors:** RO / EO extracts list of Senior Citizens (above 80 years) and PwD-flagged electors from the electoral roll of each constituency and shares it with BLOs / sector officers.
2	**Delivery of Form 13A:** BLO visits the residence of the eligible elector, hands over Form 13A, explains the home-voting facility.
3	**Collection of filled Form 13A:** BLO collects the completed Form 13A (with disability certificate where applicable) from electors who opt for the facility on the same day and deposits the forms with the Returning Officer immediately. *** A consolidated report of category-wise number of total Form-13A collected shall be sent to the SEC on email, by the end of 28.11.2026.**
4	**Scrutiny & Acceptance:** RO verifies the particulars in Form 13A. Applications of Senior Citizens and PwD that are complete and in order are accepted. Incomplete applications may be returned for rectification.
5	**Issue of Ballot Papers:** Ballot paper shall be issued to the electors; and the same shall be accepted/saved in sealed cover/envelope. The elector's name is marked in the marked copy of the electoral roll so that he/she cannot vote at the polling station.
6	**Home visit by Poll Team:** A team of polling officials (poll officer) along with a micro-observer (wherever directed) visits the elector at the address given in Form 13A on the scheduled date(s).
7	**Identity Verification & Voting:** The poll officer verifies the identity of the elector (EPIC / other prescribed document). The elector is given the pballot paper. The elector marks the ballot in secrecy, places it in the sealed Covers/Envelops.
8	**Return of Ballot:** The outer cover is closed and handed over to the poll officer, who returns all such covers to the Returning Officer under proper security and acknowledgement. The covers are kept in safe custody until counting. *** A consolidated report of category-wise number of total votes collected shall be sent to the SEC on email, by the end of 01.12.2026.**
9	**Counting:** Ballots papers (including home-voting ballots) are dealt with first at the time of counting, before counting of votes from polling stations / EVMs.

5. KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

Authority / Officer	Responsibility
State Election Commission / Competent Authority	Overall supervision; directions on dates for home visits and counting of ballot papers;
Returning Officer	Intimation to Political Parties/Candidates, identification of eligible electors; scrutiny of Form 13A; Constitution of Poll Parties; issue of ballot papers; Deployment of home-visit teams; safe custody and counting of ballot papers; ensure that no elector is subjected to any pressure, inducement or intimidation during the process;
Election Officer / District Administration	Coordination with BLOs, transport, security and logistics for home visits, especially in remote / high-altitude areas.
Booth Level Officer (BLO)	Door-to-door delivery and collection of Form 13A; assistance to electors in filling the form; timely deposit with RO.
Poll Officer (Home Visit Team)	Identity verification; issue of ballot papers and acceptance of casted ballots in sealed Covers/Envelops; maintenance of secrecy and record.

6. FORMS TO BE USED BY THE RETURNING OFFICERS

- Form 13A – Application by absentee voter (PwD / Senior Citizen)
- Sealed Covers/Envelops.
- Ballot Papers (as directed by the election authority)

8. CHECKLIST FOR RETURNING OFFICERS

- Extract list of Senior Citizens (above 80 years) and PwD-flagged electors from the roll.
- Arrange BLO visits for delivery and collection of Form 13A.
- Scrutinise and accept valid Form 13A applications.
- Issue postal ballots and mark the electoral roll.
- Constitute home-visit teams (poll officer + micro-observer where required).
- Fix and publicise home-visit schedule; ensure logistics for remote areas.
- Conduct home voting with full secrecy and collection of casted ballots in sealed Covers/Envelops.
- Receive sealed covers, keep in safe custody, and count such ballots first on the counting day.

SCHEDULE OF CASTING OF VOTES

- 27-28 November 2026: BLOs to visit Home to distribute Form 13-A and to collect the signed copies of the same.
- 29 November 2026: Preparation of Marked Copies of Electoral Rolls and issuance of Ballot Papers
- 30 November and 01 December 2026: Polling (Vote from Home).