



Election Commission of India

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NAME OF THE NEWSPAPER

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READY FOR POLL SEASON

THE POLL atmosphere should set in by next month. Chief Election Commissioner V S Sampath has led a team to Shimla and met leaders of parties, DCs and SPs of all districts and the chief secretary, leading to speculation that the dates will be announced by mid-September. The expectation is two phases of polling beginning early November. Two-phase polls brought the BJP to power in 2007 and the Congress would rather have simultaneous polls in all 68 constituencies, including the three in snowy Kinnaur, Lahaul-Spiti and Bharmour. Normally all high mountain passes including Rohtang are closed from November 15 every year. The EC wants to ensure polling in that belt is completed before the snow arrives.