

# Election Commission responsible for Covid-19 surge: Madras high court

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New cases ▼



India ▼

All time ▼

400K

300K

200K

100K

0

8 Jun

24 Aug

9 Nov

25 Jan

12 Apr



New cases



7-day average

**25 Apr 2021**

New cases: 3,52,991

7-day avg: 3,21,623



- The Madras High Court on Monday came down heavily on the Election Commission of India for allowing political rallies during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- A visibly upset Chief Justice Sanjib Banerjee told the Election Commission's counsel "Your institution is singularly responsible for the second wave of COVID-19".
- The Chief Justice went to the extent of ordering saying "Your officers should be booked on murder charges probably".
- The Chief Justice observed that the Commission had failed to enforce COVID norms regarding wearing of facemasks, use of sanitizers and maintaining social distancing during election campaigning, despite court orders.





- "Were you on another planet when the election rallies were held?", Chief Justice asked the ECI counsel.
- The Court warned that it will stop the counting scheduled on May 2 if the ECI does not put in place a blueprint of a plan to ensure following of COVID19 protocol on the counting day.
- "Public health is of paramount importance and it is distressing that constitutional authorities have to be reminded in such regard. It is only when a citizen survives that he'll be able to enjoy the rights that a democratic republic guarantees", the Chief Justice added.
- "The situation now is of survival and protection. Everything else comes next.



- The bench, directed the Election Commission of India and the Tamil Nadu Chief Electoral Officer to hold consultations with the Health Secretary and come up with a plan on following COVID-19 protocol on the counting day.
- The bench directed that the blueprint must be placed on record before it on April 30.



- Tamil Nadu is one of the states that went to polls on April 6 this year. The High Court also warned that it will stop counting on May 2, which is when the results are to be declared for elections in five states and one Union Territory, if the Election Commission does not put in place a proper plan to ensure COVID-19 norms are followed.
- Tamil Nadu's single-day coronavirus cases tally crossed the 15,000 mark on Sunday, pushing the total case count to 10.81 lakh till date. As many as 82 deaths were recorded in the last 24 hours, taking the toll to 13,557 so far.



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