

**ELECTION RULES  
FOR THE ELECTION OF THE  
COMMITTEE OF ADMINISTRATION ,  
CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN  
OF  
ALL INDIA GEM & JEWELLERY DOMESTIC COUNCIL, 2024**

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In exercise of power conferred under the articles of association of the All India Gem & Jewellery Domestic Council, (“GJC”), the Election Committee, in conjunction with the Committee of Administration, hereby establishes the following rules applicable for elections to be held in 2024:-

**1. Short title and Commencement:-**

1.1. These rules shall be referred to as the Election Rules (“**Rules**”) for the election of the Committee of Administration, Chairman, and Vice Chairman of the All India Gem & Jewellery Domestic Council, 2024.

1.2. These Rules shall come into force from the date of their adoption at the meeting of the Committee of Administration.

**2. Definitions:** In these rules, unless the context otherwise requires:

2.1. “Act” shall refer to the Companies Act, 2013 and includes any statutory modification, amendment or re-enactment thereof, for the time being in force.

2.2. “Article” shall mean an article and as amended, forming part of the Articles of Association (“**AOA**” or “**Articles**”) of the GJC.

2.3. “Committee’ or “COA” shall mean the Committee of Administration of GJC, constituted, as such, under the AOA of GJC.

2.4. “Combined Panel” shall refer to panels amalgamated together based upon the number of members in accordance with the AOA.

2.5. “Compliant Members” shall refer to those members of the GJC who are members upto the date of 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2024 and who have renewed their membership by remitting the requisite membership fees and other applicable dues, if any, on or before 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2024.

2.6. “Eligible Voters List” shall refer to the list of Compliant Members included in the voter list who are entitled to cast their vote in the election process for the Committee.

2.7. “Email” or “Email Address” shall refer to the email address provided by the Compliant Member, which is available and registered with the GJC and displayed on the GJC website alongside the member’s name in the “Eligible Voter List”.

2.8. “Election” shall refer to the elections of GJC that are being conducted in 2024 for the members of the COA required to be elected as per Articles of Association .

2.9. “Election Agency” or “Electronic Voting Agency” refers to the agency, , appointed by the election committee of the GJC, to conduct the voting process by electronic means in accordance with the Election Rules for the Elections. Such an agency shall necessarily have prior experience for having conducted elections for associations and companies.

2.10. “Election Committee” or “EC” refers to the committee formed by the COA for the purpose of framing election rules and managing and conducting Elections to the COA in 2024.

2.11. “Election Rules” refers to the rules formulated by the Election Committee and adopted by the COA during its meeting.

2.12. “GJC Office” means the registered office of GJC situated at Mumbai.

2.13. “Ineligible Members” referes to members who are not registered under any Panel or have not updated their membership by selecting a Panel.

2.14. “IPC” or “Immediate Past Chairman” is the person who held the position of Chairman of the Board immediately before the current Chairman.

2.15. "Member" refers to an ordinary members of the GJC as defined in AOA of GJC.

2.16. "Membership Number" for the purposes of the election shall mean the membership number issued and allotted to the Member by the GJC at the time of admission, and displayed on the GJC website alongside the Member's name in the "Eligible Voter List".

2.17. "OTP" refers to the computer-generated one-time password sent to the registered mobile number of the Member maintained with the GJC during the online voting process.

2.18. "Returning Officer" refers to the individual appointed by the COA upon the recommendation of the Election Committee, who is entrusted with conducting the election of the COA.

2.19. "Secretariat" refers to company secretarial department of the GJC.

2.20. "Year" refers to the financial year that begins on 1st April and ends on 31st March.

2.21. Words and expressions used herein that are not defined but are defined in the Articles shall have the meanings assigned to them in the Articles.

### **3. Role of the Election Committee:**

3.1 The Election Committee shall be established by the COA as an independent committee for the purpose of conducting the Elections. It is hereinafter clarified that the, members of the Election Committee shall not be eligible to contest in the Elections. The EC will appoint the Returning Officer and the Election Agency, and shall apprise them about their respective roles in the Elections. The EC shall also assist them with the structure of the GJC and the procedure to be followed for conducting the Elections. Additionally, the EC shall formulate and provide the rules and regulations governing the Elections.

- 3.2 The Election Agency shall be an independent agency with prior experience in managing online voting, appointed by the EC from a minimum of three quotations from different agencies received. The requirement of minimum of three quotations may be waived-off in the event where the EC approves and appoints an agency that is regulated by any statutory government body and the EC is satisfied with their services in the past elections or elections of any other associations or companies.
- 3.3 Pursuant to following due procedure, National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL), regulated by Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and experienced in managing online voting for both listed and unlisted public limited companies, has been appointed by the EC as the Electronic Voting Agency for the upcoming Elections in 2024.
- 3.4 The EC shall consist of representatives of members of the GJC and /or members of GJC, who will operate independently.
- 3.5 The EC shall conduct meetings with its appointed members only and make necessary changes or amendments within the framework of the Articles with respect to the Election Rules established herein. Thereafter, the EC shall submit its recommendations for these changes to the COA for approval and adoption.
- 3.6 The EC has the right to invite the assistance of any consultants, lawyers, members of the COA, or any GJC management personnel as may be required by them in relation to and during their meetings .
- 3.7 The members of the EC, along with the appointed Returning Officer, shall be required to attend all COA meetings where matters regarding EC recommendations and the Election Rules will be presented for discussion in the form of a report, in order to facilitate the approval and adoption of the same by the COA.

- 3.8 The EC may request information and documents for reference and seek assistance from the GJC management and staff in any matters it deems necessary. The GJC office shall provide the requested assistance.
- 3.9 The EC shall not be obligated to share any information prepared for the upcoming Elections with any one unless the EC chooses to do so of its own discretion. The EC will present the Election rRules to the COA during their joint meeting for approval and adoption.
- 3.10 Only the Compliant Members shall be eligible to vote and contest for the Elections. The EC will ensure that the GJC Secretariat circulates the list of eligible voters to all members via email and post it on GJC website.
- 3.11 The COA shall instruct the GJC office / Secretariat to provide full administrative, legal and personal support to the EC and the Returning Officer for the entire period of the Elections and no information shared shall be passed on to or with any other persons or members in GJC.
- 3.12 The COA shall allocate sufficient funding and pass a resolution regarding the Election Budget during their meeting.

#### **4. Role & Power of the Returning Officer:-**

- 4.1 The Returning Officer (RO) shall be an independent individual with prior experience in managing elections, appointed by the EC from a minimum of three applications received. In the event of insufficient applications, the decision of the EC shall be final.
- 4.2 The Returning Officer shall serve as the supreme election authority, and shall be responsible for ensuring the confidentiality of electoral rolls, voter details, and all data owned by the GJC. The Returning Officer shall not disclose and/or exploit this information for personal benefit at all points of time.
- 4.3 The Returning Officer shall oversee the 'Electronic Voting Agency' throughout the Election process.

- 4.4 All queries or complaints related to the Election submitted by members and the COA shall be referred to Election Committee Convenor and the GJC Secretariat. The EC Convenor shall, on a best efforts basis, seek to resolve the relevant issues or complaints, in consultation with the Returning Officer.
- 4.5 The Returning Officer shall remain in office until the Elections are conducted, the new COA members are elected and the first meeting of new COA takes place.
- 4.6 The Returning Officer shall approve and publish the Election schedule and all related matters, including the Code of Conduct, on the GJC website in consultation with the EC. This information will also be communicated to members through electronic channels, such as email or SMS, using the mobile numbers respectively registered with the GJC.
- 4.7 The EC shall inform the Returning Officer of the number of identified vacancies and shall be required to confirm the final list of Panels and Zonal Chairperson for the Elections, in the manner stipulated in the AOA.
- 4.8 If the Returning Officer has reasons to doubt the accuracy of any details or information in a received nomination form, he may request additional particulars or information from the GJC office. The Returning Officer also has the authority to instruct the EC to obtain any necessary documents from the respective member(s) for verification.
- 4.9 The Returning Officer shall record the names of the nominees in a panel-wise manner in his Register. After thorough scrutiny, he will prepare a list of valid and rejected nominations based on submissions received. The Returning Officer will ensure that the lists of valid and rejected nominations, along with the reasons for any rejections, are promptly displayed on the GJC website.
- 4.10 The Returning Officer, with the assistance of the EC and the GJC office, will dispatch a notice via registered email or SMS on mobile number to the eligible members. This notice will provide information about the electronic voting system and outline the procedures to be followed for voting in the Election.

## **5. Process of assessing vacancies in 2024:**

5.1 The vacancies for each term comprising of 2 years have to be assessed in coordination to the GJC AOA and the Companies Act, 2013 and must be conferred and authenticated by Returning Officer engaged by the EC . and it may be vetted by the Legal Consultant of GJC.

5.2 **Mandatory Retirement:** In accordance with Article 33.8(b) of the AOA, any COA member who has served continuously for six years will be required to retire mandatorily and will not be eligible for re-election. The AOA outlines the criteria for what is excluded from the calculation of this continuous six-year period.

5.3 **Retirement by Rotation:** In accordance with Article 33.8 (a) of the AOA, a minimum of one-third of the COA members are required to retire by rotation. Additionally, as per the Companies Act, 2013, the longest-serving COA members will be considered first for retirement. Such members who are eligible to retire will be identified through a draw of cards, and their names determined by the EC. The Returning Officer will conduct the draw of cards in the presence of the COA members, which may take place live or via a digital video platform. The Returning Officer will oversee the process and ensure a fair and transparent draw. COA members elected or re-elected and appointed in 2022, will not participate in the draw of cards and will remain as members of the COA. Only those COA members elected or appointed prior to 2022 - excluding those required to retire mandatorily or who have already resigned - will participate in the draw of cards to determine who will retire by rotation.

5.4 **Additional Vacancies:** In addition to the aforementioned vacancies on account of retirement, there will be the following two (2) additional vacancies - 1 seat of Chairman, and 1 vacancy due to resignation of Mr. Dinesh Jain, COA member.

5.5 Accordingly, based on the above, one-third (1/3<sup>rd</sup>) of the 18 elected members of the COA, which amounts to 6 members, will retire by rotation. Out of these 6 members, 3 will be required to retire mandatorily. To identify 3 additional members for retirement by rotation, a draw will be conducted. Additionally, there are 2 other vacancies that need to be filled. Therefore, there will be elections for a total of 8 COA members.

5.6 The Returning Officer shall announce the list of retiring COA members. Any change to the final list of vacancies resulting from member retirements shall be determined by the Returning Officer, subject to approval from the EC, in accordance with the relevant articles and current Rules.

The following names and their respective Panels will be included in the draw of cards for 2024:-

<b>Sr. No.</b>	<b>Names</b>	<b>Panel</b>
1.	Suresh Dhruv	Precious Metal Bullion & Refinery
2.	Dr. B. Govindan	Large Retailer
3.	Sunil Poddar	Medium Manufacturer-Jewellery
4.	Siddhartha Sawansukha	Large Manufacturer-Jewellery
5.	Samar Kumar De	Medium Retailer
6.	Rupesh Tambi	Small & Medium Wholesaler
7.	Ravi Prakash Agrawal	Small Retailer

From the total of 7 COA members eligible for the draw of cards, 3 COA members will be selected through a draw conducted by the Returning Officer during the COA meeting, in the presence of the EC.

**The following names and their respective Panels are required to mandatorily retire in 2024 Election:-**

<b>Sr. No.</b>	<b>Names</b>	<b>Panel</b>
1.	Mohanlal Jain	Small Retailer
2.	S. Abdul Nazar	Small Retailer
3.	Kamal Singhanian	Medium Retailer



List of COA members not included in the draw of cards, as they were elected or re-elected in 2022:

Sr. No.	Names
1.	Madan Kothari
2.	Nilesh Shobhawat
3.	Suyash Agrawal
4.	Rajesh Rokde
5.	Dr. Ravi Kapoor
6.	Sahil Mehra
7.	Ashok Kumar Jain
8.	Amit Kumar Soni

Nominations to fill the vacancies created-

Sr. No.	Names
1.	Dinesh Jain (Resignation)
2.	Saiyam Mehra (Chairman)

The Chairman will vacate the position of COA to assume the role of IPC .

#### **6. Election of Zonal Chairman:-**

6.1 The Zonal Chairman as outlined in the Articles, will be elected by the members from each of the four respective zones.

6.2 The tenure of the Zonal Chairman is the same as that of any other COA member, as prescribed in the AOA.

6.3 In the event of a vacancy arising from the premature retirement of a Zonal Chairman after the Elections, it shall be filled from the respective zone and Panel by the COA. The COA may nominate and elect from the existing COA members from the respective zone to fill the created vacancy. The term will be in accordance with the AOA.

6.4 The position of Zonal Chairman shall be filled prior to the COA Elections, in accordance with the Articles and the Election Rules currently in effect.

6.5 The EC shall declare the available seats for Election, as determined by the RO, to all members.

## **7. Representation to the Committee by Group of Panels/Combined Panels:-**

7.1 Subject to the articles and based upon the membership register of GJC, the representation from panels and Combined Panels shall be as follows: -

<b>Sr. No.</b>	<b>Panels/Combined Panel</b>	<b>Allocation of Reservation as per Article (Rounded Off)</b>	<b>Original/Combined</b>
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7.2 The number of seats to be filled in the Election shall be identified and announced by the EC, taking into account the vacant positions and the one-third of the existing COA members who will retire pursuant to the draw of cards.

7.3 In determining the number of vacancies to be filled in the COA, the EC shall ensure that the reservation of representation from zones and panels/Combined Panels is maintained as stipulated in the Articles and Rule 5.1 mentioned above.

## **8. Retirement and Election of Member To the Committee of Administration:-**

8.1 The Returning Officer, in consultation with the EC and with the support of the Election Agency, shall ensure an expedited election process in accordance with the Articles for the vacancies identified by the EC.

8.2 The date of the Election shall be set by the EC in consultation with the COA, ensuring that Elections are conducted and results are achieved well before 31<sup>st</sup> December in the second quarter of 2024.

8.3 During the first meeting of the COA of newly elected members, a joint meeting of new and the outgoing COA shall be convened. The existing Chairman will ensure that an experienced COA member or a past Chairman of GJC conducts an orientation for the incoming COA members, explaining the structure of GJC, and explain their rights, operational systems, and the duties they are expected to perform.

- 8.4 In addition to taking charge from the outgoing COA, the outgoing Chairman shall assist in the election of the new Chairman and Vice Chairman in accordance with the EC rules and as specified in the AOA. The outgoing Chairman will request the COA to propose the names of candidates for the positions of Chairman and Vice Chairman. If multiple nominations are received for any post, the winner will be determined by a secret ballot, with the outgoing Chairman announcing the result.
- 8.5 Once both the Chairman and Vice Chairman are elected, their names shall be announced by the outgoing Chairman. This process of election of Chairman and Vice Chairman may also be conducted via any digital video conferencing platform, and it must be recorded. The Returning Officer shall serve as an observer during this meeting.
- 8.6 Elections will be conducted for panels with no representation, combined panels, unreserved seats, and those occupied by members appointed by the COA due to casual vacancies. All casual vacant seats shall be filled in accordance with the Articles.
- 8.7 Notwithstanding anything stated herein, if a vacancy in the Committee arises due to non-receipt or withdrawal of a nomination during the Election, as the case may be, such vacancy shall be filled by the COA in its first or subsequent meetings following the Election. A person appointed to fill this vacancy shall hold office for a period of 2 (two) years, until the subsequent election of the COA, as per the AOA.
- 8.8 The GJC office, following the instructions of the Returning Officer, shall notify all COA members and the entire member base in advance via Email or SMS to their registered email-ids and mobile numbers. They will be formally requested to ensure their personal presence, or that of their authorized representative(s), at the designated location or virtual platform during the draw of cards.

8.9 The Returning Officer shall formally notify the results of the draw of cards to the GJC office, accompanied by his signature.

8.10 The term of the existing Chairman ends on 31<sup>st</sup> December after the two-year term; however, the outgoing Chairman shall continue to be the Chairman after the completion of Elections till a formal takeover/handover is made by the incoming Chairman during the first COA meeting following the Elections.

## **9. Election Process: - As per the notified schedule:-**

9.1 **Eligibility:** The Compliant Members will be eligible to participate and vote in the Elections.

9.2 Ineligible members shall not be permitted to participate in or vote during the elections.

9.3 The list of eligible names approved by the EC shall also be approved by the COA to be included in the declared 'Eligible Voters' List, along with the Code of Conduct and all necessary guidelines issued by the EC.

9.4 Once the Eligible Voters List has been prepared and approved by the EC and the Returning Officer, the GJC office shall notify to all ordinary members via e-mail and SMS to their registered email-ids and mobile numbers. This notification will inform them of the availability of the Eligible Voters List for inspection at the GJC head office and on the GJC website.

9.5 The authorized representative of the relevant member, as identified in the membership application submitted to the GJC (or notified thereafter), shall be entitled to vote in the Election.

9.6 The COA must ensure the effective implementation of the Election Rules, Code of Conduct, and all guidelines issued by the EC. They are also responsible for reporting any contraventions of these rules to the EC.

## **10. Rules for voters:**

10.1 Voters must ensure that they cast their votes from their own electronic devices viz., desktop, laptop, tablet or mobile, except when they are travelling.

Voters are hereby notified and warned against attempting to cast multiple votes from a single IP address. Any such activity may result in the invalidation of votes.

10.2 Voters are required to cast their votes using their Username and Password, or a OTP. Passwords and OTPs are confidential and voters must not share with any third party. Voters are responsible for safeguarding their login credentials and for casting their votes in a secure and a responsible manner.

10.3 The GJC office will sent the process of e-voting to the compliant members by email and will also be posted on GJC website.

10.4 The authorised representative of an Ordinary Member of the GJC may represent only one firm or company and one Panel, regardless of the number of family firms that may also be members of the GJC.

10.5 Each member and each representative shall have the right to one vote for each representation in their respective Panel, as selected at the time of admission.

10.6 Members of a panel that do not have enough members to form a Panel shall not be eligible to vote for that Panel; however, they will retain the right to vote for their respective Zone only.

10.7 Members representing Panels that have merged to form a combined panel shall vote collectively for that combined panel.

10.8 The decisions and inferences made by the Returning Officer and the EC shall be final and cannot be disputed.

## **11. Rules for Candidates:**

A candidate contesting for any position in the Election of the Committee must fulfill the following eligibility criteria: -

11.1 A candidate must be the Ordinary Member of the GJC, as indicated in the list of eligible voters.

11.2 Only the authorized representative of a member, as specified in the membership application form submitted to the GJC, shall be entitled to contest and vote in the election.

11.3 No candidate may contest eElections from more than one Panel. All candidates must meet the criteria outlined in the Election Rules and the AOA.

11.4 All candidates who are in violation of the Companies Act, 2013 and have been barred by the Registrar of Companies (ROC) from serving as a Director in any company shall not be entitled to contest the Elections in any capacity. Additionally, any candidate who incurs disqualification as specified in Article 8 of the AOA shall not be eligible to contest or cast their vote in the election.

11.5 A nomination is required for each candidate, indicating the name of the authorized representative of the member eligible for Election to any Panel of the COA. Each nomination must be proposed and seconded by members of the same Panel or every applicant contesting for the Panels.

11.6 In the event of a nomination for Zonal Chairman, the nomination must be proposed and seconded by members from any Panel within the same Zone. The nominee, proposer, and seconder for all contesting candidates must be eligible to vote.

11.7 All the contesting candidates must submit their applications, fully completed, using the original 'Nomination Form 'A'' as per the approved Election Rules for that year. This submission for the Election must include the prescribed fee and security deposits, as determined by the schedule notified by the Returning Officer, before the specified deadline. Applications received after the deadline or any incomplete applications will be deemed invalid.

11.8 All nomination forms must be submitted by post or by hand delivery to the GJC office, addressed to the Returning Officer, or via email to the designated email id provided for each Election. This submission should include all relevant attachments as specified in the Rules and the schedule.

11.9 Any nomination forms submitted via telex, fax, telegram, or any electronic mode to the Returning Officer shall be deemed invalid.

11.10 Any candidate may withdraw their nomination by submitting a written communication to the Returning Officer at the GJC office or via the Returning Officer's registered e-mail, in accordance with the schedule published on the GJC Website.

11.11 Withdrawals of nominations submitted from the candidate's registered email-id to the official designated email-id of the Returning Officer will be deemed valid and acceptable. Such withdrawals are final, and no subsequent requests to rescind the withdrawal will be accepted or considered by the Returning Officer.

11.12 A member may not file a nomination or contest for the position of Zonal Chairman and for the position of Panel Member simultaneously.

11.13 Elections for the Zonal Chairman and the Panels/Combined Panels shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions outlined in the Articles.

## **12. Process of declaration of results:**

12.1 The results of the Elections shall be announced at a designated venue within the city of the GJC's Head Office and/or on a digital platform that is easily accessible to the majority of members, as approved by the EC and the Returning Officer.

12.2 The GJC office shall maintain an official record of all candidates' names and the votes received, which shall be signed by the Chairman before the conclusion of the meeting. The GJC office will inform all members of the names of the winning candidates, categorised by Zone and Panel, via email and will also publish this information on the GJC website.

12.3 The results of the Elections for the Zonal Chairman shall be declared prior to the announcement of the results for candidates standing for the Panels, at the time of the Election results declaration.

12.4 In the event that a Zonal Chairman is elected but the number of elected members on their Panel exceeds the maximum allowable vacancies, the candidate with the lowest percentage of votes in that respective zone shall be automatically eliminated. Additionally, a member may not file their candidacy for the position of Zonal Chairman if there are no vacancies on their panel.

12.5 Once the Election for the Zonal Chairman is completed, elections for all Panels and Combined Panels shall commence through a draw of cards. During this draw, the Returning Officer will request the name of the candidate who has received the highest number of votes in that Panel from the Election Agency, in order of highest votes received. The Election Agency will have the vote information for all candidates in the notified Panels and Combined Panels prepared in advance.

12.6 The cards for all notified Panels and Combined Panels will be placed in a covered box. The Returning Officer will draw one card at a time and announce the name of the Panel. Following this, the Election Agency, after conducting the necessary verification, will declare the name of the candidate who received the highest number of votes for that Panel. It is important to note that the results for all notified Panels and Combined Panels will be announced by the Returning Officer during Round 1 of the draw of cards.

12.7 In the event that there are any vacancies remaining in any Panel, a Round 2 or Round 3 will be conducted, during which the Returning Officer will draw the panel cards one by one for each Panel. If all vacancies in the notified Panels and Combined Panels have been filled, the name of the candidate for that Panel will be declared, and that Panel will not be called out in subsequent rounds.

12.8 For example, if there is an eighth (8<sup>th</sup>) winning panelist from a particular Zone that has already filled its full quota of seven (7) elected members, the candidate with the second highest percentage of votes from a different Zone shall be nominated, as outlined in the Election Rules. During the draw of cards conducted



by the Election Authority, the contestant from this Panel who secured the majority of votes will be considered in the first round of draw.

The contestant securing the second highest number of votes will be considered in the subsequent draw of cards, provided there is a vacancy in the candidate's Zone at the time the card is drawn by the Election Authority.

All panel candidates, regardless of whether they have contested and secured the maximum votes, must participate in the second stage of the election process, which is the draw of cards.

Even if there is one available seat and a candidate has contested, this does not guarantee an automatic nomination. This is due to the limitation on the number of available seats per Zone, which is a maximum of seven (7).

The "draw of cards" process is conducted to uphold the principles of fair and natural justice as outlined in the Election Rules. All panel candidates, regardless of whether they have contested and secured the maximum votes, must participate in this second stage of the election process, which is the draw of cards.

In this case, the candidates name will be considered for the random sequence of draw of cards, which will be derived by the Election Authority.

12.9 If there are no candidates for a notified Panel or Combined Panel, and if fewer than 20 members are available, eligible, or elected to the COA, that vacancy will be declared unreserved. It will subsequently be filled by the COA in accordance with the provisions outlined in the Articles.

12.10 In the event that only one valid nomination is received for a vacancy, no Election will be held for that position. The nominee will be declared elected and unopposed, and will not be subject to the draw of cards, provided the a vacancy is available in the respective Zone following the Election of the Zonal Chairman.

12.11 Each Voter Member shall follow the electronic voting procedure as specified in the Notice to cast their vote. All eligible Voter Members shall be entitled to cast their votes in accordance with the notified schedule.

12.12 The electronic votes cast by members shall be stored on a secure server. Only the Returning Officer shall be granted access to these votes after the voting has concluded and upon the EC's instruction to retrieve them.

12.13 The total count of votes on the server will be noted and verified by the Returning Officer through his access to the secure sever where the votes are stored.

12.14 In the event of a dispute regarding the count of votes, a candidate may submit an application for scrutiny to the EC.

12.15 The Returning Officer shall maintain the secrecy of the votes received. Only the Returning Officer or an individual authorized in writing by the Returning Officer, as well as the candidate or an individual authorized by the candidate, shall be permitted to observe the process of scrutiny and counting of votes at the GJC office.

12.16 The candidate receiving the highest number of votes from each Panel or Zone will be declared elected from the respective Panel or Zone.

12.17 In the event of a tie, the outcome will be determined by a draw of cards conducted by the Returning Officer among the tied candidates.

12.18 The Returning Officer shall declare the election results, stating the names of the elected candidates from each Zone and Panel, in accordance with the Election Rules for the year governing the Election of the Committee of Administration (COA).

12.19 The decision of the Returning Officer in this matter shall be final and binding on all parties involved.

12.20 The election results will be published on the GJC website and communicated to all members via e-mail to their registered e-mail id and/or through SMS to their registered mobile numbers.

### **13 Manner of declaring results:-**

13.1 The agency responsible for managing the e-voting process, referred to as the Electronic Voting Agency, shall have its processes independently audited and approved by security auditors. It must submit the certificate issued by the security auditor or an equivalent certified agency to the Returning Officer and the EC.

13.2 The Voting agency will determine the total number of votes received for each Zone and Panel, as well as the number of votes secured by each contesting candidate. It will declare the results, including the name of the candidate receiving the highest number of votes, and provide this information in a signed and sealed envelope to the Returning Officer.

13.3 The Returning Officer shall then announce the names of each contestant, beginning with the four (4) Zonal Chairpersons, followed by a panel-wise declaration. The names of the winning candidate will be declared based on the Election Rules and the results from the draw of cards in Round 1, 2, and 3, as necessary.

### **14. Dispute Resolution:-**

All disputes arising from the Election of the Committee of Administration, Chairman, and Vice Chairman of the GJC shall be resolved through arbitration by a sole arbitrator mutually appointed by the contesting parties, in accordance with the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996, as may be amended from time to time. The decision of the arbitrator shall be final and binding on all parties. The seat and venue of the arbitration proceedings shall be in Mumbai, and the proceedings shall be conducted in English language.

The Courts in Mumbai shall have exclusive jurisdiction for all purposes in relation to all matters pertaining to the Elections and the Election Rules ,

**15. Representation to the Committee by Panels and Combined Panels, including the number of members and allocation of seats and vacancies, shall be governed by the provisions outlined in the Articles of Association.**

<b>Panel No.</b>	<b>Panels &amp; No. of seats as per Elections 2024</b>	<b>No. of Members as on 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2024</b>	<b>Seats allocated</b>	<b>Seats vacant for voting</b>
<b>1</b>	Large Retailer	<b>364</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2</b>	Medium Retailer	<b>559</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>3</b>	Small Retailer	<b>547</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b>	Medium Manufacturer Jewellery	<b>193</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>5</b>	Small & Medium Manufacturer Silver Jewellery (32) & Small & Medium Manufacturer –Colour Stones (23) & Allied (88) & Precious Metal Bullion & Refinery (13) & Lab Grown Diamond (1)	<b>157</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>6</b>	Small Manufacturer Jewellery	<b>262</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>7</b>	Large Manufacturer Diamond (24) & Large Manufacturer Jewellery (150)	<b>174</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>8</b>	Small & Medium Wholesaler	<b>306</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>9</b>	Large Wholesaler	<b>137</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
	<b>Total No. of eligible voters – Seats – Vacancies</b>	<b>2699</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>8</b>