

ENFORCEMENT OF MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT

The Election Commission of India has drawn up a list of 'Dos' and 'Don'ts' to be followed by candidates and political parties after the announcement of elections and till the completion of the process of elections. The Commission has directed that this be given the widest possible publicity and its contents brought to the knowledge of all candidates and political parties.

DO's'

- 1) On-going programmes, which actually started in the field before the announcement of elections may continue.
- 2) Relief and rehabilitation measures to the people in areas affected by floods, drought, pestilence, and other natural calamities, can commence and continue.
- 3) Grant of cash or medical facilities to terminally or critically ill persons can continue with appropriate approvals.
- 4) Public places like maidans must be available impartially to all parties/contesting candidates for holding election meetings. So also use of helipads must be available impartially to all parties/contesting candidates, to ensure a level playing field.
- 5) Criticism of other political parties and candidates should relate to their policies, programme, past record and work.
- 6) The right of every individual for peaceful and undisturbed home life should be fully safeguarded.
- 7) The local police authorities should be fully informed of the venue and time of the proposed meetings well in time and all necessary permissions taken.
- 8) If there are any restrictive or prohibitory orders in force in the place of the proposed meeting, they shall be fully respected. Exemption, if necessary, must be applied for and obtained well in time.
- 9) Permission must be obtained for the use of loudspeakers or any other such facilities for the proposed meetings.
- 10) The assistance of the police should be obtained in dealing with persons disturbing meetings or otherwise creating disorder.
- 11) The time and place of the starting of any procession, the route to be followed and the time and place at which the procession will terminate should be settled in advance and advance permissions obtained from the police authorities.
- 12) The existence of any restrictive orders in force in the localities through which the procession has to pass should be ascertained and fully complied with. So also all traffic regulations and other restrictions.
- 13) The passage of the procession must be without hindrance to traffic.
- 14) Cooperation should be extended to all election officials at all times to ensure peaceful and orderly poll.
- 15) All Workers must display badges or identity cards.
- 16) Unofficial identity slips issued to voters shall be on plain (white) paper and not contain any symbol, name of the candidate or name of the party.
- 17) Restrictions on plying of vehicles during the campaign period and on poll day shall be fully obeyed.
- 18) (Except voters, candidates and their election/polling agents), only persons with a specific valid authority letter from the Election Commission can enter any polling booth. No functionary however highly placed (e.g. Chief Minister, Minister, MP or MLA etc) is exempt from this condition.
- 19) Any complaint or problem regarding the conduct of elections shall be brought to the notice of the observer appointed by the Commission/Returning Officer/Zonal/Sector Magistrate/Election Commission of India.
- 20) Directions/orders/instructions of the Election Commission, the Returning Officer, and the District Election Officer shall be obeyed in all matters related to various aspects of election.
- 21) Do not leave the constituency after the campaign period is over if you are not a voter or a candidate or candidate's election agent from that constituency.

DON'Ts

- 1) Any and all advertisements at the cost of the public exchequer regarding achievements of the party/Government in power is prohibited.
- 2) No Minister shall enter any polling station or the place of counting, unless he or she is a candidate or as a voter only for voting.
- 3) Official work should not at all be mixed with campaigning/electioneering.
- 4) No inducement, financial or otherwise, shall be offered to the voter.
- 5) Caste/communal feelings of the electors shall not be appealed to.
- 6) No activity, which may aggravate existing differences or create mutual hatred or cause tension between different castes, communities or religious or linguistic groups shall be attempted.

- 7) No aspect of the private life, not connected with the public activities, of the leaders or workers of other parties shall be permitted to be criticized.
- 8) Other parties or their workers shall not be criticized based on unverified allegations or on distortions.
- 9) Temples, Mosques, Churches, Gurudwaras or any place of worship shall not be used as places for election propaganda, including speeches, posters, music etc., on electioneering.
- 10) Activities which are corrupt practices or electoral offences such as bribery, undue influence, intimidation of voters, personation, canvassing within 100 meters of a polling station, holding of public meetings during the period of 48 hours ending with the hour fixed for the close of the poll and conveyance of voters to and from polling stations are prohibited.
- 11) Demonstrations or picketing before the houses of individuals by way of protesting against their opinion or activities shall not be resorted to.
- 12) Subject to the local laws, no one can make use of any individual's land, building, compound wall, vehicles etc. for erecting flag staffs, putting up banners, pasting notices or writing slogans etc. without specific permission of the owner (to be shown to and deposited with the District Election Officer).
- 13) No disturbances shall be created in public meetings or processions organized by other political parties or candidates.
- 14) Processions along places at which another party is holding meetings shall not be undertaken.
- 15) Processionists shall not carry any articles, which are capable of being misused as missiles or weapons.
- 16) Posters issued by other parties and candidates shall not be removed or defaced.
- 17) Posters, flags, symbols or any other propaganda material shall not be displayed in the place being used on the day of poll for distribution of identity slips or near polling booths.
- 18) Loudspeakers whether static or mounted on moving vehicles shall not be used either before 6 a.m. or after 10a.m. and without the prior written permission of the authorities concerned.
- 19) Loudspeakers shall also not be used at public meetings and processions without the prior written permission of the authorities concerned. Normally, such meetings/processions will not be allowed to continue beyond 10.00 p.m. in the night and will be further subject to the local laws, local perceptions of the security arrangements of the area and other relevant considerations like weather conditions, festival season, examination period, etc.
- 20) No liquor should be distributed during elections.
- 21) On the day of the poll, no person who has been assessed to be having a security threat and therefore given official security shall enter the vicinity of a polling station premise (within 100 meters) with his security personnel. Further, on the day of the poll no such person shall move around in a constituency with his security personnel. If the person provided with official security happens to be a voter also, then he or she shall restrict his / her movement - accompanied by security personnel, to voting only.
- 22) No person who has been assessed to be having a security threat and therefore provided official security or who has private security guards for himself, shall be appointed as an election agent or polling agent or counting agent.
- 23) Issue of advertisement at the cost of public exchequer in the newspapers and other media and the misuse of official mass media during the election period for partisan coverage of political news and publicity regarding achievements with a view to furthering the prospects of the party in power shall be scrupulously avoided.

PARTY IN POWER

- 1) The party in power whether at the Centre or in the State or States concerned, shall ensure that no cause is given for any complaint that it has used its official position for the purpose of its election campaign.
- 2) Ministers and other authorities shall not sanction grants/payments out of discretionary funds from the time elections are announced by the Commission.
- 3) Ministers and other authorities shall not make any ad-hoc appointments in Government, Public Undertakings etc. which may have the effect of influencing the voters in favour of the party in power.
- 4) From the time elections are announced by Commission, Ministers and other authorities shall not –
 - (a) announce any financial grants in any form or promises thereof; or
 - (b) (except civil servants) lay foundation stones etc. of projects or schemes of any kind; or
 - (c) make any promise of construction of roads, provision of drinking water facilities etc.; or
- 5) Public places and government transport shall not be monopolized by itself.

For further details, please visit ceomanipur.nic.in or eci.gov.in

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