

**Bye Election 46- Ellenabad**  
**Most Immediate Date Bound**

No. 4/2/2021-1 Election  
Government of Haryana  
Chief Secretary Office  
(Election Branch)

To

Dated, Chandigarh 28<sup>th</sup> September, 2021.

1. All the Addl. Chief Secretaries/ Principal Secretaries/Commissioners & Secretaries to Govt., Haryana.
2. The Director General of Police Haryana.
3. All the MD's of Boards/ Corporations of the State.
4. All the Divisional Commissioner in Haryana.
5. All the Deputy Commissioner-cum- District Elections Officer in Haryana.

**Subject: - Bye Election to 46- Ellendabad Assembly Constituency (Sirsa) Press note.**

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Sir/Madam,

I am directed to refer to the subject noted above and to send herewith a copy of Model Code of Conduct received from the Secretary, Election Commission of India, New Delhi, vide letter No. ECI/PN/83/2021, dated 28.09.2021 alongwith it enclosures for immediate compliance.

2. Election Commission of India vide its press note bearing No.ECI/PN/83/2021, dated 28.09.2021(copy enclosed) has announced the following schedule for Bye-election to 46- Ellenabad Assembly Constituency of this State:

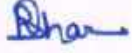
|    | Poll events                                   | Schedule              |
|----|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. | Date of Issue of Gazette Notification         | 01.10.2021 (Friday)   |
| 2. | Last date of Nomination                       | 8.10.2021( Friday)    |
| 3. | Date for Scrutiny of Nominations              | 11.10.2021(Monday)    |
| 4. | Last date for withdrawal of candidatures      | 13.10.2021(Wednesday) |
| 5. | Date of Poll                                  | 30.10.2021(Saturday)  |
| 6. | Date of Counting                              | 02.11.2021(Tuesday)   |
| 7. | Date before which election shall be completed | 05.11.2021( Friday)   |

3. As per the directions of the Election Commission of India issued vide above mentioned press note, EVMs and VVPATs shall be used during this Bye-Election and with the announcement of the schedule of Bye-election to the above said Assembly Constituency the Model Code of Conduct has come into force with immediate effect in the district(s) in which the whole or any part of the Assembly Constituency going for election is included. The Model Code of Conduct shall be applicable to all political parties and to the State Govt. A copy of MCC is also enclosed for ready reference.

4. It may be ensured that directions of the Election Commission of India and proper implementation of Model Code of Conduct is strictly enforced.

5. The copy of this letter alongwith its enclosures is also available at website csharyana.gov.in under Election Branch.

Yours faithfully,

  
Joint Secretary Election.

Endst.No.4/2/2021-1Election

Dated, Chandigarh the 28<sup>th</sup> September, 2021.

A copy is forwarded to Sh. Sanjeev Kumar Prasad, Secretary, Election Commission of India, Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi w.r.t. their letter No. ECI/PN/83/2021, dated 28.09.2021 for information & necessary action.

  
Joint Secretary Election.

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Endst.No.4/2/2021-1Election

Dated, Chandigarh the 28<sup>th</sup> September,2021.

A copy is forwarded to the Chief Electoral Officer, Haryana, Chandigarh w.r.t. his letter No. 324(1)/Press Note/ Bye-Elec.-2021/2AE-4411, dated 28.09.2021 for information & necessary action.



Joint Secretary Election.



A copy is forwarded to the Senior Special Secretaries / Senior Secretaries / Secretaries/Private Secretaries to Chief Minister/Deputy Chief Minister/Ministers/ State Ministers for bringing these instructions to the notice of Hon'ble Chief Minister/ Ministers/ State Ministers. It is also requested that all concerned may be apprised of the instructions contained in the enclosed letter for compliance.



Joint Secretary Election



To

The Senior Special Secretaries / Senior Secretaries / Secretaries / Private Secretaries to Chief Minister / Deputy Chief Minister/ Ministers / State Ministers.

Endst.No.4/6/2014-1Election

Dated, Chandigarh the 28<sup>th</sup> September,2021

CC: -  
PS/CS

# ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001

No. ECI/PN/83/2021

Dated: 28<sup>th</sup> September, 2021

## PRESS NOTE

**Subject: Schedule for Bye-elections in Parliamentary/ Assembly Constituencies of various States – reg.**

The Commission has reviewed the situations related to pandemic, flood, festivals, cold conditions in certain regions, feedback from concerned States/UT and taken into consideration all facts and circumstances and it has decided to hold bye-elections to fill vacancies in three (3) Parliamentary Constituencies of UT of Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, Madhya Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh and thirty (30) vacancies in Assembly Constituencies of various States as per details given below:

| Sl. No. | State/UT                                   | Parliamentary Constituency No. & Name |
|---------|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1.      | UT of Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu | Dadra & Nagar Haveli                  |
| 2.      | Madhya Pradesh                             | 28-Khandwa                            |
| 3.      | Himachal Pradesh                           | 2-Mandi                               |

| Sl. No. | State            | Constituency No. & Name   |
|---------|------------------|---------------------------|
| 1.      | Andhra Pradesh   | 124-Badvel (SC)           |
| 2.      | Assam            | 28-Gossaigaon             |
| 3.      | Assam            | 41-Bhabanipur             |
| 4.      | Assam            | 58-Tamulpur               |
| 5.      | Assam            | 101-Mariani               |
| 6.      | Assam            | 107-Thowra                |
| 7.      | Bihar            | 78-Kusheshwar Asthan (SC) |
| 8.      | Bihar            | 164-Tarapur               |
| 9.      | Haryana          | 46-Ellenabad              |
| 10.     | Himachal Pradesh | 08-Fatehpur               |
| 11.     | Himachal Pradesh | 50-Arki                   |

|     |                  |                           |
|-----|------------------|---------------------------|
| 12. | Himachal Pradesh | 65-Jubbal- Kotkhai        |
| 13. | Karnataka        | 33-Sindgi                 |
| 14. | Karnataka        | 82-Hangal                 |
| 15. | Madhya Pradesh   | 45-Prithvipur             |
| 16. | Madhya Pradesh   | 62-Raigaon (SC)           |
| 17. | Madhya Pradesh   | 192-Jobat (ST)            |
| 18. | Maharashtra      | 90-Deghur (SC)            |
| 19. | Meghalaya        | 13-Mawryngkneng (ST)      |
| 20. | Meghalaya        | 24-Mawphlang (ST)         |
| 21. | Meghalaya        | 47-Rajabala               |
| 22. | Mizoram          | 4-Tuirial (ST)            |
| 23. | Nagaland         | 58-Shamtorr-Chessore (ST) |
| 24. | Rajasthan        | 155-Vallabh Nagar         |
| 25. | Rajasthan        | 157-Dhariawad (ST)        |
| 26. | Telangana        | 31-Huzurabad              |
| 27. | West Bengal      | 7-Dinhata                 |
| 28. | West Bengal      | 86-Santipur               |
| 29. | West Bengal      | 109-Khardaha              |
| 30. | West Bengal      | 127-Gosaba(SC)            |

The Commission has decided to hold these bye-elections to fill vacancies and has fixed the dates of poll events as per provisions under Section 30 and date of withdrawal under Section 30(c) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951. The schedule of bye election is as follows:

| <b>Schedule 1: For Assembly Constituency of Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Rajasthan, Telangana and Parliamentary Constituency of UT of Dadra &amp; Nagar Haveli and Daman &amp; Diu, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh.</b> |                        |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Poll Events</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <b>Schedule 1</b>      |
| Date of Issue of Gazette Notification                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 01.10.2021<br>(Friday) |
| Last Date of Nominations                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 08.10.2021<br>(Friday) |

|                                               |                                  |
|-----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Date for Scrutiny of Nominations              | 11.10.2021<br>(Monday)           |
| Last Date for Withdrawal of candidatures      | 13.10.2021<br>(Wednesday)        |
| <b>Date of Poll</b>                           | <b>30.10.2021<br/>(Saturday)</b> |
| Date of Counting                              | 02.11.2021<br>(Tuesday)          |
| Date before which election shall be completed | 05.11.2021<br>(Friday)           |

| <b>Schedule 2: For Assembly Constituency of Assam, Bihar and West Bengal</b> |                                  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Poll Events</b>                                                           | <b>Schedule 2</b>                |
| Date of Issue of Gazette Notification                                        | 01.10.2021<br>(Friday)           |
| Last Date of Nominations                                                     | 08.10.2021<br>(Friday)           |
| Date for Scrutiny of Nominations                                             | 11.10.2021<br>(Monday)           |
| Last Date for Withdrawal of candidatures                                     | 16.10.2021<br>(Saturday)         |
| <b>Date of Poll</b>                                                          | <b>30.10.2021<br/>(Saturday)</b> |
| Date of Counting                                                             | 02.11.2021<br>(Tuesday)          |
| Date before which election shall be completed                                | 05.11.2021<br>(Friday)           |

### **1. ELECTORAL ROLL**

The published Electoral Rolls for the aforesaid Assembly Constituencies w.r.t 01.01.2021 will be used for these elections.

### **2. ELECTRONIC VOTING MACHINES (EVMs) and VVPATs**

The Commission has decided to use EVMs and VVPATs in the bye-election in all the

polling stations. Adequate numbers of EVMs and VVPATs have been made available and all steps have been taken to ensure that the polls are conducted smoothly with the help of these machines.

### **3. IDENTIFICATION OF VOTERS**

Electoral Photo Identity cards (EPIC) shall be the main document of identification of a voter. However, any of the below mentioned identification documents can also be shown at the polling station:

- i. Aadhar Card,
- ii. MNREGA Job Card,
- iii. Passbooks with photograph issued by Bank/Post Office,
- iv. Health Insurance Smart Card issued under the scheme of Ministry of Labour,
- v. Driving License,
- vi. PAN Card,
- vii. Smart Card issued by RGI under NPR,
- viii. Indian Passport,
- ix. Pension document with photograph,
- x. Service Identity Cards with photograph issued to employees by Central/State Govt./PSUs/Public Limited Companies, and
- xi. Official identity cards issued to MPs/MLAs/MLCs.

### **4. MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT**

The Model code of conduct shall come into force with immediate effect in the district(s) in which the whole or any part of the Assembly constituency going for election is included, subject to partial modification as issued vide Commission's instruction No. 437/6/1NST/2016-CCS, dated 29<sup>th</sup> June, 2017 (available on the commission's website).

### **5. INFORMATION REGARDING CRIMINAL ANTECEDENTS**

The Commission has prescribed timeline for publicity of criminal antecedents during the period starting from the day following the last date of withdrawal and upto 48 hours before ending with the hour fixed for conclusion of poll.

The consolidated instructions on this matter is available on the Commission's website under the following hyperlink <https://eci.gov.in/files/file/12265-broad-guidelines-of-election-commission-of-india-on-publicity-of-criminal-antecedents-by-political-parties-candidates/>

This is in furtherance of the judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India dated 13.02.2020 and 10.08.2021 in Contempt Petition (C) No. 656 of 2020 titled Brajesh Singh Vs. Sunil Arora & Ors., which has been circulated to political parties

vide Commission's letter dated 26.08.2021. In pursuance of the direction given under Para 73.v of the judgment, now, Format C-7 should be published by the political parties **within 48 hours of the selection of the candidate and not prior to two weeks before the first date of filing of nominations.**

The Commission has also prescribed following timeline for publicity of criminal antecedents during the period starting from the day following the last date of withdrawal and upto 48 hours before ending with the hour fixed for conclusion of poll.

The consolidated instructions on this matter is available on the Commission's website under the following hyperlink <https://eci.gov.in/files/file/12265-broad-guidelines-of-election-commission-of-india-on-publicity-of-criminal-antecedents-by-political-parties-candidates/>

**6. BROAD GUIDELINES TO BE FOLLOWED DURING THE CONDUCT OF BYE-ELECTIONS /ADJOURNED POLL DURING the period of COVID-19**

The Commission has issued broad guidelines on 21<sup>st</sup> August, 2020. Also, it has issued further guidelines on 09.10.2020, 09.04.2021, 16.04.2021, 21.04.2021, 22.04.2021, 23.04.2021 and 28.04.2021 available on Commission's website [eci.gov.in](https://eci.gov.in) or link <https://eci.gov.in/candidate-political-parties/instructions-on-covid-19/>. Also, vide letter No.40-3/2020-DM-I(A) dated 28<sup>th</sup> August, 2021, instructions for implementation of targeted and prompt actions for COVID management has been extended by MHA up to 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2021. After taking inputs from the political parties/Chief Electoral Officers and keeping the extant instructions of MHA/MoHFW in view, the Commission has further strengthened these guidelines. Further, the Commission's all instructions relating to conduct of General Election in West Bengal during the COVID-19 period shall also be *mutatis mutandis* applicable for these bye-elections/adjourned poll.

All stake holders shall abide by these instructions. State Government concerned shall take all appropriate actions/measures in compliance to these instructions as follows.

|   |                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|---|------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | <b>Nomination</b>      | During Pre and post nomination procession, public meeting prohibited / Only three vehicles permitted within a periphery of 100 meters of RO's office. No procession for nomination shall be permitted. |
| 2 | <b>Campaign period</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

|   |                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|---|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|   | <b>(a) Meeting for</b>                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|   | <b>(i) Indoor</b>                       | 30% of allowed capacity or 200 persons, whichever is less. A register will be maintained to count the number of people attending the meeting.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|   | <b>(ii) Outdoor</b>                     | With 50% of capacity (as per Covid-19 guidelines) or 1000 in the case of Star Campaigners and 50% of the capacity or 500 in all other cases. In either case, the allowed number is whichever is less. The entire area will be cordoned off and will be guarded by the police. The count of people entering the ground will be monitored. Expenditure for the cordoning/barricading will be borne by the candidate/party. Only those grounds which are cordoned/barricaded completely will be used for rallies. |
|   | <b>(b) Star Campaigners</b>             | Number of Star Campaigners restricted to 20 for these bye-elections for National /State recognized parties and 10 for un-recognized registered parties in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|   | <b>(c) Road show</b>                    | No Roadshow shall be allowed and No Motor/Bike/Cycle rallies to be allowed                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|   | <b>(d) Street corner meeting</b>        | Maximum 50 persons shall be allowed (Subject to availability of space and compliance to COVID-19 guidelines.)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|   | <b>(e) Door to door campaign</b>        | Door to door campaign with 5 persons including candidates/their representatives.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|   | <b>(f) Campaign through video van</b>   | Not more than 50 audiences shall be allowed in one cluster point subject to availability of space and compliance to covid guidelines.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|   | <b>(g) Use of vehicles for campaign</b> | Total vehicles allowed for a candidate/political party (excluding Star Campaigner):- 20<br>Maximum no. of persons allowed per vehicle 50% of the capacity.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 3 | <b>Silence period</b>                   | The silence period is 72 hours before the end of poll.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 4 | <b>Poll activities day</b>              | 1. Maximum 2 vehicles with 3 persons each shall be allowed. Security as per the applicable extant guidelines.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |

|   |                     |                                                                                                                                                                       |
|---|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|   |                     | 2. Poll day activity on polling station as per ECI guidelines.                                                                                                        |
| 5 | <b>Counting day</b> | DEOs to take appropriate measures to prevent crowding. Social distancing and other COVID safety protocols to be strictly adhered to at all the times during counting. |

7. All such activities will be strictly complied as per the Covid-19 guidelines issued by competent authorities. Social distancing and use of mask, sanitizers, thermal scanning, face shield, hand gloves, etc., as per COVID-19 protocol, have to be complied with. SDMA is responsible for all preventive and mitigation measures to ensure adherence to COVID protocol. Chief Secretary and DG and district level authorities will be responsible for monitoring, supervision and compliance of covid-19 guidelines.
8. If a candidate or political party violates any of the above guidelines, no more permission shall be given to the concerned candidate/party for rallies, meetings etc. If any star campaigner violates the COVID protocols, he shall not be allowed to campaign further in that constituency/district.
9. All polling personnel and election officials including the private persons engaged in the election duty shall be **double vaccinated** before taking their services.
10. Candidate/election agent/polling agent counting agent/driver etc. whoever is coming in contact with the public or election officials have to be **double vaccinated**.
11. One health worker to be appointed as COVID nodal officer for each Polling Station.
12. CS/DG and concerned DMs/SPs shall take enough preventive measures and make necessary arrangements to ensure that no poll related violence occurs during pre and post poll.
13. In the light of advisory issued by the Health Ministry of GoI, ECI will keep a close watch on the evolving situation and may further tighten the guidelines for the upcoming elections.

  
**(SANJEEV KUMAR PRASAD)**  
**SECRETARY**



भारत निर्वाचन आयोग  
Election Commission of India

No. 437/6/INST/2016-CCS

To,

1. The Chief Electoral Officers of all States and Union Territories.
2. The Chief Secretaries of all States and Union Territories.
3. Recognized political parties of all States/UTs

Subject:- Model Code of Conduct- instructions- bye-election of Parliamentary/Assembly Constituency regarding

Sir,

On the above cited subject, I am directed to state that the Commission has reviewed the issue and has issued the following modifications of its earlier instructions-

1. Enforcement of MCC

The Commission's instructions, contained in letters No. 437/6/INST/2012/CC&BE dated 26.04.2012 and No. 437/6/INST/2012/CC&BE dated 21.10.2013, list various provisions of applicability of MCC to the concerned district or the AC/PC concerned. These instructions are modified to the extent that in case the constituency is comprised in State Capital/Metropolitan Cities/Municipal Corporations, then aforesaid instructions would be applicable in the area of concerned Constituency only. In all other cases the MCC would be enforced in the entire district(s) covering the Constituency going for bye-election(s).

2. Publishing of Advertisements

The Commission on 25th June 2013, directed that the release /publishing of advertisements during the period of operation of Model Code of Conduct in connection with bye-elections would be regulated as follows:-

- (i) Advertisement of general nature in connection with specific occasions of importance may be published. However, such publishing shall be restricted to the dates coinciding with the special occasion only, and it shall not be published on other days. The advertisement shall not bear photographs of any Minister and other political functionaries.
- (ii) No advertisement having any specific/pointed reference or connotation to the areas covered by the bye-election constituencies shall be released/published on any date during the period.

Further, it is clarified that no new schemes should be advertised in the districts where the bye-election is being conducted. [Subpara (ii) above stands modified].

3. Tours of Ministers

During bye elections from any constituencies, either Parliamentary or Assemblies, the following restrictions are applicable as per instruction issued by the Commission on 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 2007 with regard to the tours of Ministers which inter alia provides that:-

- (i) All Ministers, whether Central or State, shall not combine in any manner their official tours with election work after the announcement of the bye elections. All and any visits to the district(s) where bye-election is being held and where Model Code of Conduct is, therefore, in force, have to be completely private in nature.
- (ii) In case where a Minister travelling on official work transits through the district(s) where the bye-election is being held en route to any other district on official visit, he shall not attend to any political work.

Further, it is clarified that the Ministers or persons holding equivalent rank/status cannot combine their official visit with campaign by en routing their journey for official purposes to a place where MCC is not in force and then proceeding from that place to the area where MCC is in force for election campaign. In case it is done, the entire journey expense shall be treated as election expense. [subpara (ii) above stands modified].

Tel: 011-23052205-18 Fax: 011-23052223-25, Website: www.eci.nic.in

“मजबूत लोकतंत्र - सबकी भागीदारी”  
Greater participation for a stronger democracy

4. Regarding Transfer/Posting of Officers

For all officers, who are connected with the conduct of bye-election in the State, the existing ECI's instructions on implementation of transfer policy be applied within the area falling under the concerned AC/PC. While implementing this policy the DEO/RO should take care that in case of deployment of any officer from outside the constituency for any election related duty, shall also conform to the transfer policy of the Commission.

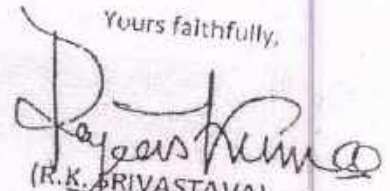
5. Regarding Announcement of D.A.

There is no ECI's instruction in the context of bye-election prohibiting State Governments to take decisions which have State wide effect and consequently in the Constituency concerned.

The Commission, after taking into consideration all relevant factors in this regards, has decided that announcement of D.A. by the state government may be done as a routine affair but it should not be publicized as the Government's achievement....

Kindly inform all concerned and give due publicity and ensure compliance in letter and spirit.

Yours faithfully,

  
(R.K. PRIVASTAVA)  
SR. PG. SECRETARY

# ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

## MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT FOR THE GUIDANCE OF POLITICAL PARTIES AND CANDIDATES

### I. General Conduct

1. No party or candidate shall include in any activity which may aggravate existing differences or create mutual hatred or cause tension between different castes and communities, religious or linguistic.
2. Criticism of other political parties, when made, shall be confined to their policies and programme, past record and work. Parties and Candidates shall refrain from criticism of all aspects of private life, not connected with the public activities of the leaders or workers of other parties. Criticism of other parties or their workers based on unverified allegations or distortion shall be avoided.
3. There shall be no appeal to caste or communal feelings for securing votes. Mosques, Churches, Temples or other places of worship shall not be used as forum for election propaganda.
4. All parties and candidates shall avoid scrupulously all activities which are "corrupt practices" and offences under the election law, such as bribing of voters, intimidation of voters, impersonation of voters, canvassing within 100 meters of polling stations, holding public meetings during the period of 48 hours ending with the hour fixed for the close of the poll, and the transport and conveyance of voters to and from polling station.
5. The right of every individual for peaceful and undisturbed home-life shall be respected, however much the political parties or candidates may resent his political opinions or activities. Organizing demonstrations or picketing before the houses of individuals by way of protesting against their opinions or activities shall not be resorted to under any circumstances.
6. No political party or candidate shall permit its or his followers to make use of any individual's land, building, compound wall etc., without his permission for erecting flag-staffs, suspending banners, pasting notices, writing slogans etc.
7. Political parties and candidates shall ensure that their supporters do not create obstructions in or break up meetings and processions organized by other parties. Workers or sympathisers of one political party shall not create disturbances at public meetings organized by another political party by putting questions orally or in writing or by distributing leaflets of their own party. Processions shall not be taken out by one party along places at which meetings are held by another party. Posters issued by one party shall not be removed by workers of another party.

### II. Meetings

1. The party or candidate shall inform the local police authorities of the venue and time any proposed meeting well in time so as to enable the police to make necessary arrangements for controlling traffic and maintaining peace and order.
2. A Party or candidate shall ascertain in advance if there is any restrictive or prohibitory order in force in the place proposed for the meeting if such orders exist, they shall be followed strictly. If any exemption is required from such orders, it shall be applied for and obtained well in time.

3. If permission or license is to be obtained for the use of loudspeakers or any other facility in connection with any proposed meeting, the party or candidate shall apply to the authority concerned well in advance and obtain such permission or license.
4. Organizers of a meeting shall invariably seek the assistance of the police on duty for dealing with persons disturbing a meeting or otherwise attempting to create disorder. Organizers themselves shall not take action against such persons.

### III. Procession

1. A Party or candidate organizing a procession shall decide before hand the time and place of the starting of the procession, the route to be followed and the time and place at which the procession will terminate. There shall ordinary be no deviation from the programme.
2. The organizers shall give advance intimation to the local police authorities of the programme so as to enable the latter to make necessary arrangement.
3. The organizers shall ascertain if any restrictive orders are in force in the localities through which the procession has to pass, and shall comply with the restrictions unless exempted specially by the competent authority. Any traffic regulations or restrictions shall also be carefully adhered to.
4. The organizers shall take steps in advance to arrange for passage of the procession so that there is no block or hindrance to traffic. If the procession is very long, it shall be organized in segments of suitable lengths, so that at convenient intervals, especially at points where the procession has to pass road junctions, the passage of held up traffic could be allowed by stages thus avoiding heavy traffic congestion.
5. Processions shall be so regulated as to keep as much to the right of the road as possible and the direction and advice of the police on duty shall be strictly complied with.
6. If two or more political parties or candidates propose to take processions over the same route or parts thereof at about the same time, the organizers shall establish contact well in advance and decide upon the measures to be taken to see that the processions do not clash or cause hindrance to traffic. The assistance of the local police shall be availed of for arriving at a satisfactory arrangement. For this purpose the parties shall contact the police at the earliest opportunity.
7. The political parties or candidates shall exercise control to the maximum extent possible in the matter of processionists carrying articles which may be put to misuse by undesirable elements especially in moments of excitement.
8. The carrying of effigies purporting to represent member of other political parties or their leaders, burning such effigies in public and such other forms demonstration shall not be countenanced by any political party or candidate.

### IV. Polling Day

All Political parties and candidates shall –

1. co-operate with the officers on election duty to ensure peaceful and orderly polling and complete freedom to the voters to exercise their franchise without being subjected to any annoyance or obstruction.
2. supply to their authorized workers suitable badges or identity cards.
3. agree that the Identity slip supplied by them to voters shall be on plain (white) paper and shall not contain any symbol, name of the candidate or the name of the party;
4. refrain from serving or distributing liquor on polling day and during the forty eight hours preceding it.
5. not allow unnecessary crowd to be collected near the camps set up by the political parties and candidates near the polling booths so as to avoid Confrontation and tension among workers and sympathizers of the parties and the candidate.

6. ensure that the candidate's camps shall be simple. They shall not display any posters, flags, symbols or any other propaganda material. No eatable shall be served or crowd allowed at the camps and
7. co-operate with the authorities in complying with the restrictions to be imposed on the plying of vehicles on the polling day and obtain permits for them which should be displayed prominently on those vehicles.

## V. Polling Booth

Excepting the voters, no one without a valid pass from the Election Commission shall enter the polling booths.

## VI. Observers

The Election Commission is appointing Observers. If the candidates or their agents have any specific complaint or problem regarding the conduct of elections they may bring the same to the notice of the Observer.

## VII. Party in Power

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 purposes of its election campaign and in particular –

1. (a) The Ministers shall not combine their official visit with electioneering work and shall not also make use of official machinery or personnel during the electioneering work.  
(b) Government transport including official air-crafts, vehicles, machinery and personnel shall not be used for furtherance of the interest of the party in power;
2. Public places such as maidens etc., for holding election meetings, and use of helipads for air-flights in connection with elections shall not be monopolized by itself. Other parties and candidates shall be allowed the use of such places and facilities on the same terms and conditions on which they are used by the party in power;
3. Rest houses, dark bungalows or other Government accommodation shall not be monopolized by the party in power or its candidates and such accommodation shall be allowed to be used by other parties and candidates in a fair manner but no party or candidate shall use or be allowed to use such accommodation (including premises appertaining thereto) as a campaign office or for holding any public meeting for the purposes of election propaganda;
4. 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.
5. Ministers and other authorities shall not sanction grants/payments out of discretionary funds from the time elections are announced by the Commission; and
6. From the time elections are announced by Commission, Ministers and other authorities shall
  - (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
  - (d) make any ad-hoc appointments in Government, Public Undertakings etc. which may have the effect of influencing the voters in favor of the party in power.

Note : The Commission shall announce the date of any election which shall be a date

- ordinarily not more than three weeks prior to the date on which the notification is likely to be issued in respect of such elections.
7. Ministers of Central or State Government shall not enter any polling station or place of counting except in their capacity as a candidate or voter or authorized agent.

### VIII. Guidelines on Election Manifestos

1. The Supreme Court in its judgment dated 5th July 2013 in SLP(C) No. 21455 of 2008 ( S. Subramaniam Balaji Vs Govt. of Tamil Nadu and Others) has directed the Election Commission to frame guidelines with regard to the contents of election manifestos in consultation with all the recognized political parties. The guiding principles which will lead to framing of such guidelines are quoted below from the judgment:-
  - (i) "Although, the law is obvious that the promises in the election manifesto cannot be construed as 'corrupt practice' under Section 123 of RP Act, the reality cannot be ruled out that distribution of freebies of any kind, undoubtedly, influences all people. It shakes the root of free and fair elections to a large degree".
  - (ii) "The Election Commission, in order to ensure level playing field between the contesting parties and candidates in elections and also in order to see that the purity of the election process does not get vitiated, as in past been issuing instructions under the Model Code of Conduct. The fountainhead of the powers under which the Commission issues these orders is Article 324 of the Constitution which mandates the Commission to hold free and fair elections."
  - (iii) "We are mindful of the fact that generally political parties release their election manifesto before the announcement of election date, in that scenario, strictly speaking, the Election Commission will not have the authority to regulate any act which is done before the announcement of the date. Nevertheless, an exception can be made in this regard as the purpose of election manifesto is directly associated with the election process".
2. Upon receiving the above directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, the Election Commission held a meeting with the recognized National and State Political Parties for consultation with them in the matter and took note of their conflicting views in the matter.

During consultations, while some political parties supported the issuance of such guidelines, others were of the view that it is their right and duty towards voters to make such offers and promises in manifestos in a healthy democratic polity. While the Commission agrees in principle with the point of view that framing of manifestos is the right of the political parties, it cannot overlook the undesirable impact of some of the promises and offers on the conduct of free and fair elections and maintaining level playing field for all political parties and candidates.
3. The Constitution under Article 324 mandates the Election Commission, to conduct elections inter alia to the Parliament and the State Legislatures. Having due regard to the above directions of the Supreme Court and after consultation with the Political Parties, the Commission, in the interest of free and fair elections, hereby directs that Political Parties and Candidates while releasing election manifestos for any election to the Parliament or State Legislatures, shall adhere to the following guidelines :-
  - (i) The election manifesto shall not contain anything repugnant to the ideals and principles enshrined in the Constitution and further that it shall be consistent with the letter and spirit

of other provisions of Model Code of Conduct.

(ii) The Directive Principles of State Policy enshrined in the Constitution enjoin upon the State to frame various welfare measures for the citizens and therefore there can be no objection to the promise of such welfare measures in election manifestos. However, political parties should avoid making those promises which are likely to vitiate the purity of the election process or exert undue influence on the voters in exercising their franchise.

(iii) In the interest of transparency, level playing field and credibility of promises, it is expected that manifestos also reflect the rationale for the promises and broadly indicate the ways and means to meet the financial requirements for it. Trust of voters should be sought only on those promises which are possible to be fulfilled.