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P.241

No.F.5(1)-GA(AR)/2021/ 6064-71
GOVERNMENT OF TRIPURA
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION (AR) DEPARTMENT

Dated, Agartala, the 29th October, 2021



MEMORANDUM

Subject: Model Code of Conduct for General Election of Urban Local Bodies, 2021: reg.

The State Election Commission of Tripura has announced the General Election of Urban Local Bodies 2021. The Model Code of Conduct has come into force by 22/10/2021.

All concerned are advised to ensure strict compliance of the Model Code of Conduct and the instruction issued by the State Election Commission of Tripura vide Note No.F. 1(20)-SEC/MUNC/GEN-ELEC/2021 dated 22nd October, 2021.

All the Departments are requested to ensure strict compliance of this instruction.

Encl:-As stated.

(Signature)
29.10.21

(Pankaj Das)

Under Secretary to the
Government of Tripura

Copy to:-

All Departments/Head of Departments for strict compliance,

Copy also to:-

1. The Principal Secretary to the Hon'ble Chief Minister.
2. The PP/PS to all Hon'ble Ministers.
3. The PS to all Principal Secretaries/ Secretaries/Spl. Secretaries.
4. The PS to CEO, Tripura, Agartala for information.
5. The PS to DGP, Tripura for information.
6. The PS to PCC

(Signature)
29.10.21

(Pankaj Das)

Under Secretary to the
Government of Tripura

AD (ESA)

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**MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT
FOR THE
GUIDANCE OF
POLITICAL PARTIES & CANDIDATES**

IN CONNECTION WITH GENERAL ELECTION TO MUNICIPALITIES

STATE ELECTION COMMISSION

12/24/0

**MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT
FOR THE
GUIDANCE OF
POLITICAL PARTIES & CANDIDATES**

IN CONNECTION WITH GENERAL ELECTION TO MUNICIPALITIES

STATE ELECTION COMMISSION

#339

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

STATE ELECTION COMMISSION

I. General Conduct :

- (1) No party or candidate shall indulge in any activity which may aggravate existing differences or create mutual 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 on distortion shall be avoided.
- (3) There shall be no appeal to caste or communal feeling 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 the bribing of voters, intimidation of voters, personation of voters, canvassing within 100 meters of a polling station, 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 opinion or activities shall not be resort 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 stoffs, suspending banners, pasting notices, writing slogans, etc.

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- (2) The organizers shall give advance intimation of the programme to the local police authorities so as to enable the latter to make necessary arrangements.
- (3) The organizers shall take 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 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 element especially in moments of excitement.
- (8) The carrying of effigies purporting to represent members of other political parties on their leaders, burning such effigies in public and such other forms of demonstrations shall not be countenanced by any political party or candidate.

IV. Polling Day:

All political parties and candidates shall

- (i) 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 subject to any annoyance or obstruction ;
- (ii) Supply to their authorized workers suitable badges or identity cards ;
- (iii) Agree that the identity slips supplied by them to voters shall be on plain (white) papers and shall not contain any symbol, name of the candidate or the name of the party ;
- (iv) Refrain from serving or distributing liquor on polling day and during the twenty-four hours preceding it ;
- (v) Not allow unnecessary crowds to be collected near the camps set up by political parties and candidates, near the polling booths so as to avoid confrontation and tension among workers and sympathizers of the parties and candidates ;
- (vi) Ensure that the candidate's camps shall be simple. They shall not display any posters, flags, symbols or any other propaganda materials. No eatables shall be served or crowds allowed at the camps ; and
- (vii) 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. Loudspeaker usage :

- (1) From the day when election is declared till the results are announced loudspeakers will be used from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. No permission to be granted for the use of loudspeakers beyond this hour. The places where

P232

loudspeakers are required to be used must be allotted to all political parties and candidates. No political party or candidate will be allowed to set up booth office or any political party offices in this places (houses / sheds and grounds).

- (2) Prior permissions from the prescribed authority should be taken for the use of loud speakers. The prescribed authorities must ensure law and order prevails before giving permission. The authority must quote the time limit for use of loudspeaker by any party for which permission is given.

VI. Polling Booth :

Excepting the voters, candidates, candidate's Election Agent or one Polling Agent, no one without valid pass from D.M. and Collector or the Returning Officer shall enter the polling booths.

VI. Observers:

The State 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.

- (i) The Minister shall not combine their official visit with electioneering work and shall not also make use of official machinery or personal during electioneering work ;
- (ii) 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

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use of such places and facilities on the same terms and conditions on which they are use by the party in power ;

- (iii) Rest houses, dak 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 campaign office or for holding any public meeting for the purposes of election propaganda.
- (iv) 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 advertisement with a view to furthering the prospects of the party in power shall be scrupulously avoided;
- (v) **Ministers and other authorities shall not sanction grants payments out of discretionary funds from the time elections are announced by the Commission ;**
- (vi) **From the time the elections are announced by the Commission, Ministers and other authorities shall not**
 - (a) Announce any financial grants in any form or promise, thereof; or
 - (b) 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 favour of the party in power.

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- (vii) Minister of Central or State Government shall not enter any polling station or places of counting except in their capacity as a candidate or voter or authorized agent.

VIII. COVID -19 Special Measure :

Campaign. Meeting etc. Activities of Political Parties

- i. Door to door campaign – subject to any other restrictions(s), including extant COVID-19 guidelines, a group of 5(five) persons including candidates, excluding security personnel, if any, may be allowed to do door to door campaign.
- ii. Road shows – Prior permission should be taken for Road shows by the Political parties giving details from the DEOs. The convoy should be broken as per directions of the Local Police authorities maintaining COVID guidelines, (Excluding the security vehicles, if any).
- iii. Election meetings – Public gatherings/ rallies may be conducted subject to adherence of COVID-19 guidelines.
- iv. Concerned authorities should, in advance, identify dedicated grounds for public gathering with clearly marked entry/exit points. In all such identified grounds, the concerned authorities should, in advance, put markers to ensure social distancing norms by the attendees.
- v. District Election Officer and District Superintendent of Police may ensure that the number of attendees does not exceed the limit prescribed by the State Disaster Management authority for public gatherings.

-(8):-

- vi. The political parties and candidates concerned to ensure that all COVID-19 related requirement like face masks, sanitizers, thermal scanning etc. are fulfilled during each of these activities.

All or any guidelines issued time to time on COVID-19 or any other election related matters by the State Government, State Election Commission, Health Department or any other Government institution, are to be followed by all the stakeholders.

**State Election Commission
Tripura : Agartala**