

GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY
DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL & ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS
(PERSONNEL WING)

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No.A.51011/5/2021/DPAR/SS-I(1)

Puducherry, dated: 29.09.2021

C I R C U L A R

Sub: Civic Elections to the Local Bodies in the UT of Puducherry – Enforcement of Model Code of Conduct - Reg.

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The State Election Commission, Puducherry has announced on 22.09.2021 the schedule of Civic Elections to the Local Bodies, 2021 in the UT of Puducherry. The polling will be held in three phase on 21st, 25th and 28th October 2021. The counting will take place on 31.10.2021.

2. The State Election Commission has communicated the Model Code of Conduct for ensuring peaceful, free and fair elections. With the announcement of elections, these instructions have come into force with effect from 22.09.2021. They, inter alia, lay down guidelines to be observed by the Administrative machinery such as freeze on new recruitments, restrictions on the creation of new administrative units, ban on transfer of officers, restrictions on announcement of new welfare measures and laying of foundation stones etc.

3. It is, therefore, impressed on all the Heads of Departments/ Public Sector Undertakings/ Autonomous organizations substantially funded from the State exchequer that:

- i) a) The Ministers shall not combine their official visit with electioneering work and also shall not make use of official machinery or personnel during the electioneering work.
b) Government transport including official vehicles, machinery and personnel shall not be used for furtherance of the interest of the party in power.
- ii) Public places such as maidans 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.
- iii) Issue of advertisement at the cost of public exchequer in the newspapers and other media and the misuse of official media during the election period.
- iv) Ministers and other authorities shall not sanction grants/ payments out of discretionary funds from the time elections are announced by the Commission.
- v) From the time elections are announced by the Commission, Ministers and other authorities shall not announce any financial grants in any form or promises thereof; or lay foundation stones etc. of projects or schemes of any kind; or make any promise of construction of roads, provision of drinking water facilities etc; or make any ad-hoc appointments in Government, Public Undertaking etc, which may have effect of influencing the voters in favour of the party in power.
- vi) The Commission further directs that there shall be a total ban on the transfer or all officers / officials connected with the conduct of the election. These include but are not restricted to:
 - a) The District Election Officers, Returning officers, Assistant Returning officers and other officers connected with the conduct of elections.
 - b) Officers of Police Department connected with the management of elections.
- vii) The transfer orders issued in respect of the any categories of officers / staff prior to the date of announcement but not implemented till date should not be given effect without obtaining specific permission from the Commission.
- viii) This ban shall be effective till the completion of the election. The Commission further directs that the Government should refrain from making transfers of senior officers who have a role in the management of election. In those cases where transfer of an officer is necessary on account for administrative exigencies, the concerned Department may with full justification approach the Commission for prior clearance.

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- ix) There shall be a total ban on ad-hoc/ temporary appointments/ promotions in Government/ Public Sector Undertakings/ Autonomous Bodies etc., till the poll process is over except with prior concurrence of State Election Commission, Puducherry.
- x) Engagement of CLRs, NMRs, Daily wages, Part-time etc., shall not be made till the election process is over;
- xi) Even under approved and continuing schemes of the Government, new schemes including the drought relief work shall not be taken except with the prior approval of the State Election Commission, Puducherry;
- xii) No advertisements shall be issued in electronic and print media highlighting the achievements of the Government at the cost of public exchequer;
- xiii) Creation of any new administrative units or assurances on that behalf shall be desisted from;
- xiv) New Committees/ trustees shall not be formed/ nominated;

4. It is also impressed upon all concerned that no pay revision, up-gradation etc., leading to expenditure on exchequer or any policy decision shall be announced during the period of elections as it will amount to violation of the Model Code of Conduct.

5. The Departments seeking clearance of any proposal involving the application of Model Code of Conduct, where the existing instructions are not clear or felt to be ambiguous in nature, shall refer a comprehensive proposal to the State Election Commission, Puducherry to the MCC cell constituted vide order No.1-10/SEC/CE/E1/Nodal/2021/657 dated 15.09.2021 through the Administrative Secretary and Chief Secretary.

6. The above instructions shall be followed scrupulously.

/ BY ORDER /

(V. JAISANKAR)

UNDER SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To

1. The Commissioner-cum-Secretary/Secretaries/Special Secretaries to Govt., Pdy.
2. All Secretariat / Heads of Departments/ Offices.
3. All Public Sector Undertakings/ Autonomous Bodies funded by Government.

Copy to:

1. The State Election Commissioner, Puducherry.
2. The Secretary to Lieutenant Governor, Puducherry.
3. The OSD to Chief Minister/ Home Minister, Puducherry.
4. The Private Secretary to all Ministers/ Speaker/ PA to Dy. Speaker.
5. The District Collector, Puducherry/Karaikal; Regional Administrator, Mahe/Yanam.
6. The Private Secretary to Chief Secretary, Puducherry.
7. Stock file.