

DOS AND DON'TS FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE CANDIDATES AND POLITICAL PARTIES TO BE OBSERVED FROM THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF AN ELECTION AND UNTIL THE COMPLETION OF THE PROCESS OF ELECTION

DO'S'

- (1) Ongoing programmes may continue.
- (2) The clarification/approval of the Election Commission of India/Chief Electoral Officer of your State should be obtained in case of doubt.
- (3) Relief and rehabilitation measures to the people in areas affected by floods, drought, pestilence, and other natural calamities, should commence and continue.
- (4) Grant of cash or medical facilities to terminally or critically ill persons can continue with appropriate approvals.
- (5) Public places like maidens 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.
- (6) Rest houses, dak bungalows and other Government accommodation should be available to all political parties and contesting candidates on an equitable basis.
- (7) Criticism of other political parties and candidates should relate to their policies, programmes, past record and work.
- (8) The right of every individual for peaceful and undisturbed home life should be fully safeguarded.
- (9) 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.
- (10) 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.
- (11) Permission must be obtained for the use of loudspeakers or any other such facilities for the proposed meeting.
- (12) The assistance of the police should be obtained in dealing with persons disturbing meetings or otherwise creating disorder.
- (13) 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.
- (14) 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.

- (15)The passage of the procession must be without hindrance to traffic.
- (16)Cooperation should be extended to all election officials at all times to ensure peaceful and orderly poll.
- (17)Badges or identity cards must be displayed by workers.
- (18)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.
- (19)Restrictions on plying of vehicles on poll day shall be fully obeyed.
- (20)Only persons with a specific valid authority letter from the Election Commission can enter any polling booth at any time. No functionary however highly placed (e.g. Chief Minister, Minister, MP or MLA etc) is exempt from this.
- (21)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.
- (22)Directions/orders/instructions of the Election Commission, the Returning Officer, the District Election Officer shall be obeyed in all matters related to various aspects of election.

'DON'TS'

- (1) Do not make use of official vehicles or personnel or machinery for electioneering work. Official Vehicles' include (a) trucks, (b) lorries, (c) tempos, (d) jeeps, (e) cars, (f) auto-rickshaws, (g) buses, (h) aircraft's, (i) helicopters, (j) ships, (k) boats, (l) hovercrafts and all other vehicles belonging to the;
- (1)Central Government.
- (2)State Government,
- (3)Public Undertakings of the Central and State Government,
- (4)Joint Sector Undertakings of Central Government and State Government,
- (5)Local Bodies,
- (6)Municipal Corporations,
- (7)Municipalities,
- (8)Marketing Boards, (by whatever name known)
- (9)Cooperative Societies,
- (10)Autonomous District Councils or

(11) any other body in which public funds, howsoever small a portion of the total, are invested and also

(12) those belonging to the Ministry of Defense and the Central Police Organizations under the Ministry of Home Affairs and State Governments.

(2) Do not issue any advertisement at the cost of the public exchequer regarding achievements of the party/Government in power.

(3) Announcements of any financial grants, laying of foundation stones, making promise of construction of new roads etc., shall not be made.

(4) No ad-hoc appointments in Government/Public Undertakings shall be made.

(5) No Minister shall enter any polling station or the place of counting unless he is a candidate or an authorized agent or as a voter only for voting.

(6) Official work should not at all be mixed with campaigning/electioneering.

(7) No inducement, financial or otherwise, shall be offered to the voter.

(8) Caste/communal feelings of the electors shall not be appealed to.

(9) 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.

(10) 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.

(11) Other parties or their workers shall not be criticized based on unverified allegations or on distortions.

(12) 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.

(13) Activities which are corrupt practices or electoral offences such as bribery, undue influence, intimidation of voters, personating, 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.

(14) Demonstrations or picketing before the houses of individuals by way of protesting against their opinion or activities shall not be resorted to.

(15) No one can make use of any individual's land, building, compound wall etc. without his permission for erecting flag staffs, putting up banners, pasting notices or writing slogans, etc. This includes private and public premises.

(16) No disturbances shall be created in public meetings or processions organised by other political parties or candidates.

(17) Processions along places at which meetings are being held by another party shall not be undertaken.

(18) Processionists shall not carry any articles which are capable of being misused as missiles or weapons.

(19) Posters issued by other parties and candidates shall not be removed or defaced.

(20) 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.

(21) Loudspeakers whether static or mounted on moving vehicles shall not be used either before 6 a.m. or after 10 a.m. and without the prior written permission of the authorities concerned.

(22) 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.

(23) No liquor should be distributed during elections.

NOTE The above list of Do's' and Don'ts' is only illustrative and not exhaustive and is not intended to substitute any other detailed orders, directions/instructions on the above subjects, which must be strictly observed and followed.



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