

**MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE CONTESTING
CANDIDATES, GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES IN
THE ELECTIONS TO THE MUNICIPAL COUNCILS/MUNICIPAL COMMITTEES AND
MUNICIPAL CORPORATION**

PART – I : FOR CANDIDATES

1. General Conduct for Candidates

(1) No party or candidates shall indulge in any activity which may aggravate existing differences or create mutual hatred or cause tension between different castes and communities, religious or linguistic.

(2) There shall be no appeal to caste or communal feelings for securing votes.

(3) Houses, Churches, Temples or other places of worship shall not be used as forum for election propaganda.

(4) All 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.

(5) Criticism of other political parties, when made, shall be confined to their parties and programmes, past record and work. They should not be criticised on unverified allegations.

(6) The right of every individual for peaceful and undisturbed life shall be respected, however, much the political parties or candidates may resent his political feelings or activities. Organising demonstrations or picketing before the houses of individuals by way of protesting against their opinions shall not be resorted to under any circumstances.

(7) Political parties and candidates should avoid such activities which are offences under the election Law for example:

(i) Transport and conveyance of voters to and from polling stations.

(ii) Holding Public Meeting during the period of 48 hours ending with the hour fixed for close of poll.

(iii) Canvassing within 100 meters of a polling station.

(iv) Bribing of voters, intimidation of voters, personation of voters.

(8) On the day of polling or two days prior to it, the liquor shall neither be purchased nor shall it be offered to any person or distributed. Every candidate will ask his supporters also not to indulge in such activities.

(9) No candidate shall permit 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.

(10) No political party or candidate shall allow his supporters to remove the flags or posters pasted by other parties or candidates.

(11) Identification slips given to the voters will be on plain paper containing the name of the candidate. It should not have name of the candidate and his election symbol. The identification/slips will contain the name of voters, his father/husband's name, ward number, polling station number and serial number in the voting list and will not contain anything else.

(12) The candidate/political party will give full co-operations to the polling staff on duty for the peaceful conduct of the elections.

II. Meeting and Processions

(i) The party or candidates shall inform the local police authorities of the venue and time of any proposed meeting/procession well in time so as to the police to make necessary arrangements for controlling traffic and maintaining peace and order.

(ii) A party or candidate shall ascertain in advance if there are any restrictive or prohibitory orders in force in the place proposed for the meeting/procession. If such orders exist, they will be followed strictly. If any exemption is required from such orders, it shall be applied for and obtained well in time.

(iii) The organisers 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 organised in 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.

(iv) If two or more political parties or candidates propose to take processions from the same route or parts thereof at the same time, the organisers shall contact well in advance and decide upon the measures to be taken to see that the processions do not clash or cause hindrance to the traffic. Local police shall be availed of for arriving at a satisfactory arrangement. For this purpose, the parties shall contact the police at the earliest possible.

(v) 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.

(vi) Organisers of a meeting shall invariably seek the assistance of the police on duty for dealing with persons disturbing a meeting/procession or otherwise attempting to create disorder. Organisers themselves shall not take action against such persons.

(vii) The carrying of effigies purporting to represent members of other political parties or their leaders, burning such effigies in public and such other forms of demonstration shall not be countenanced by any political party or candidate.

III. Polling Day

All political parties and candidates shall: -

- (i) supply to their authorised workers suitable badges or identity cards;
- (ii) agree that the identity slips 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;
- (iii) refrain from serving or distributing liquor on polling day and during the twenty-four hours preceding it;
- (iv) not allow unnecessary crowds 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 sympathisers of the parties and candidates.
- (v) Ensure that the candidate's camps shall be simple. They shall not display any posters, flags, symbols or any other propaganda material. No eatables shall be served or crowds allowed at the camps;
- (vi) 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.

IV. Polling Booth

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

PART-II : FOR GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND GOVERNMENT SERVANTS

1. No Government servant shall take part in, subscribe in aid of, or assist in any way, any candidate.
2. Attendance at public meetings organised by candidate would always be contrary to the Government Servants Conduct Rules unless all the following conditions are satisfied: -
 - (1) (a) that the meeting is public meeting and not in any sense private or restricted meeting;
 - (b) that the meeting is not held contrary to any prohibitory order or without permission where permission is needed; and
 - (c) that the Government servant in question does not himself speak at, or take active or prominent part in organising or conducting the meeting.
- (2) Even where the said conditions are satisfied, while occasional attendance at such meetings may not be construed as a participation, frequent or regular attendance by a Government servant at meetings of any particular candidate is bound to create the impression that he is a sympathiser of the aims and objects of that particular

candidate. Conduct which give cause for such an impression may well be construed as assisting a candidate.

3. During election campaign, if any Minister visits a private house in connection with some election programme, the Government servant should not attend that function.

4. While giving permission for any meeting no candidate should be discriminated.

5. If on a particular day a number of candidates apply for holding a meeting at a particular place, the permission should be given to only that candidate who had applied first.

6. Rest Houses or Circuit Houses should be given for use to all candidates on the same and equal conditions. No candidate will be given permission to use these places or premises for election propaganda.

7. (a) During the election period, if any, meeting is conducted it should be considered a meeting for political purpose and Government should not spend any amount on it; leaving aside the Govt. servants who are there for maintaining law and order, no other Government employee should attend such meetings.

(b) During the period of elections, if any Minister visits any Municipal Committee/Corporation and Panchayat where the elections are due, such tour must be considered as election tour and no Government servant should accompany the Minister/those who are to be provided for security. During such tours Government vehicles should not be made available.

(c) From the date when the election is announced till the election is complete, the Government, Local Government, Cooperative Institutions and such other Institutions which receive aid from the Government would not make available their vehicles to the Ministers, Members of Parliament, Member of Legislative Assembly or candidates and such vehicles will not be utilised for election purposes.

8. Ministers will not combine their official tours with the tours for the purpose of election propaganda nor will they utilise the Government servants or vehicles during the election period which can be considered as being utilised for the purpose of favouring a candidate.

9. From the date election is announced till the election is complete, Ministers will not give any grant from the discretionary fund or from the Government fund nor will they sanction any scheme. During this period no foundation stone will be laid nor will any plan be inaugurated.

10. During election period such advertisements will not be released by Government Institutions in the news-papers which will highlight the achievements of the party in power which may lead to favouring a candidate.