



**STATE ELECTION COMMISSION, HARYANA**  
NIRVACHAN SADAN, PLOT NO. 2, SECTOR- 17  
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**URGENT**

No. SEC/1ME/2021/ 1662-1671

Dated: 14<sup>th</sup>.07.2021

To

The President/General Secretary of the recognized  
National/State Political Parties

**Subject: Reiterating Guidelines for strict observance of Covid Protocol during Local Bodies (Panchayat and Municipal Institutions) election rallies, meeting campaigning etc.-regarding.**

Sir/Madam,

State Election Commission, Haryana had issued detailed "guidelines for conduct of Local Bodies (Municipal and Panchayat) General/Bye-elections during COVID-19" vide letter No. SEC/1ME/2020/2769-3069 dated 27.11.2020. In these guidelines, it was inter-alia stated in item No. 13 (4) that the political parties and the contesting candidates should ensure that all COVID-19 related requirements, like wearing of face masks, use of sanitizers, thermal scanning etc. are fulfilled during elections of local bodies (Panchayat and Municipal Institutions). It was further stated that non-compliance of these instructions during the period of public interface will attract action as per provisions of section 51 to 60 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005, besides invocation of section 188 of Indian Penal Code, 1860 and as also specified in Ministry of Home Affairs Government of India's Order No. 40-3/2020-DM-I(A) dated 29<sup>th</sup> July, 2020. The Election Commission of India during the period of elections of Legislative Assemblies of 5 State/UTs held in March and April, 2021, observed that norms of social distancing, wearing of masks etc. have been flouted in utter disregard to the Election Commission of India's guidelines. The star campaigners/political leaders/candidates were not observing COVID protocols. Some of them were

found not wearing masks themselves at stage or while campaigning. By doing so, the political parties and candidates were exposing themselves as well as the public attending such election meetings to grave danger of COVID infection. The State Election Commission, Haryana has also to conduct General Elections of Panchayati Raj Institutions and some Municipal Institutions shortly. COVID 19 pandemic situation continues to be grim and serious and there are very little chances of subsiding of pandemic in near future. On the other hand health experts say that there is a possibility of third wave of pandemic. In view of General Elections of Panchayati Raj Institutions and some Municipal Institutions to be conducted in near future, the State Election Commission, Haryana hereby further directs as under:-

- i) The guidelines issued by the State Election Commission, Haryana vide letter No. SEC/1ME/2020/2769-3069 dated 27.11.2020 referred to above be observed in all seriousness.
- ii) **Political parties, leaders, campaigners, candidates are expected to be torch bearers for the campaign against COVID** and hence they are expected to not only set an example by maintaining social distancing, wearing masks and following prescribed protocols of COVID-19 but also by exhorting members of general public who attend electioneering campaign, rallies etc. to strictly follow COVID protocols.
- iii) The Commission seeks fullest cooperation from the political parties and candidates of strict observance of COVID-19 related protocols so that all pandemic related guidelines are adhered to by all the participants including organizers during electioneering. **It is advised that political leaders/candidates who have moral and bounden duty to control spread of COVID-19, demonstrate by their personal example and nudge all supporters in the beginning of rally, meetings, campaign itself to wear masks, use sanitizers and put in place crowd control measures as per social distancing norms.**
- iv) **In case of breach of COVID-19 related protocol, the State Election Commission will not hesitate in banning public meetings, rallies etc. of the defaulting candidates/star campaigners/political leaders/parties without any further reference.**

- v) The **Maximum limit** on the number of star campaigners for recognized National/State political parties shall be **10** and for unrecognized registered political parties it shall be **05** during the period of pandemic.
- vi) Recognized National/State political parties, unrecognized registered political parties and independent candidates (if they so desire) shall submit list of star campaigners to the Deputy Commissioner or District Election Officer (P) concerned within a period of 10 days from the date of notification of elections.
- vii) Request for permission for campaigning by star campaigners shall be submitted to the district election authorities **at least 48 hours** before the start of campaign so that all necessary safety measures are put in place by all concerned stakeholders well in time.
- viii) COVID-19 related guidelines issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare Government of India and State from time to time have prescribed detailed preventive measures including wearing of masks, use of sanitizers, observance of social distancing at all stages wherever public interface in physical form is involved. Observance of these preventive measures is a duty cast upon all the stakeholders in the larger interest of public health. This would require advance planning, prior permission from the district authorities, massive awareness activities, and ensuring strict discipline by all concerned. As representatives of public, this onerous responsibility rests with the political parties to ensure that they not only cooperate with the district administrative and election related machinery in following due norms of public health safety as prescribed. They must also instill a sense of discipline for civic behaviour in their cadre while doing ground management during campaign times. You may like to issue advisory to all your field representatives to demonstrate utmost vigil and care to abide by all the extant instructions in larger interest of public health and avoid any penal action for breaching the provisions.
- ix) District Election machinery will make all necessary electoral arrangement, taking into account safety requirements, as directed by the State Election Commission. However, as an important stakeholder of electoral process, you are requested to demonstrate utmost vigil and care during the period of campaign in larger interest of public health.

- x) State Election Commission is confident that it will receive fullest cooperation from political parties and others in this regard

Yours faithfully

  
Asstt. State Election Commissioner  
for State Election Commissioner, Haryana

Endst. No. SEC/1ME/2021/ 1672-1971

Dated: 14<sup>th</sup> 07.2021

A copy of above is forwarded to the following with the directions to familiarize themselves and all other concerned with these guidelines and strictly comply during Local Bodies (Municipal and Panchayat) elections to be conducted in near future.:-

1. Deputy Commissioners or District Election Officers (P) in the State of Haryana
2. Commissioners of all the Municipal Corporations.
3. District Municipal Commissioners of all the Municipal Councils and Committees.
4. District Development and Panchayat Officers of all the Districts.
5. Executive Officers (E.Os) of all the Municipal Corporations and Councils.
6. Block Development and Panchayat Officers of all the Blocks in the district concerned.
7. Secretaries of all the Municipal Committees.

  
Asstt. State Election Commissioner  
for State Election Commissioner, Haryana

Endst. No. SEC/1ME/2021/ 1972

Dated: 14<sup>th</sup> 07.2021

A copy of above is forwarded to the Director General, Information, Public Relations and Languages Department, Haryana, Chandigarh for publication in the leading news papers having wide circulation in the State of Haryana.

  
Asstt. State Election Commissioner  
for State Election Commissioner, Haryana

Endst. No. SEC/1ME/2021/ 1973

Dated: 14<sup>th</sup> 07.2021

A copy of above alongwith enclosure is forwarded to I.T.Cell of this Commission with the directions to host the notification in the official website of this Commission.

  
Asstt. State Election Commissioner  
for State Election Commissioner, Haryana

- CC: 1. Supdt./Panchayat  
2. Store-Keeper (two copies for record & n.a.)  
3. Librarian (two copies for record)