

**SECRETARIAT OF THE
ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA**

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F. No. 579/SOP-Printing/2023/Communication

Dated: 21st March, 2024

To

The Chief Electoral Officers of all States and UTs

Subject: - Frame work for reference/use by CEOs/DEOs to further the commitment of ECI to Environment sustainability and broad parameters for Printing of Books/Materials in Election Commission of India. - Reg.

I am directed to refer to the subject cited above and to say that in today's world, the environmental concerns have become more significant, Election Commission is also very concerned with the issue of environment hazards caused by use of non-biodegradable materials in election. In this regard Commission has been issuing advisories to Political parties as well as to CEOs for taking necessary steps towards environment friendly elections. Recently above instructions and court directions have been compiled and circulated to all Recognized National and State Political Parties. vide circular dated 18th August, 2023 for compliance. **All advisories issued by ECI and court directions circulated in the matter are reiterated to be scrupulously followed.** It is pertinent to mention here that environment friendly elections have been engaging the attention of democracies in different countries across the globe. Towards this noble objective scope of dos and don'ts is widening covering no first use of plastic in election material by political parties as well as election functionaries to printing of material and waste management during different phases i.e. pre-poll, campaigning, polling, counting etc. and in order to reduce physical printing of books and promote environment friendly measures in printing of material instructions issued by ECI from time to time following Framework are issued for reference/use: -

A) General Principles on Election Process at large: -

a. Segregation of Waste: -

- i. To utilize only environment friendly materials and to avoid single-use plastic completely in all election processes and events.

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- ii. To ensure segregation of different types of waste.
- iii. To install clear and visible signage at polling stations and campaign events to guide people on where to dispose of different types of waste, such as recyclables, organic waste, and non-recyclables.
- iv. To provide separate collection bins for different types of waste, including bins for recyclables (such as paper, plastic, glass, and metal), organic waste (such as food scraps and biodegradable materials), and non-recyclable waste

b. Waste Management

- i. Ensure that there are adequate disposal facilities available for each type of waste collected, including recycling facilities and composting bins.
- ii. Regularly monitor the waste collection and segregation process to ensure that it is being implemented correctly, and provide ongoing maintenance of collection bins and facilities.
- iii. Partner with local waste management companies or recycling facilities to ensure that segregated waste is properly collected, processed, and recycled or disposed of in an environmentally responsible manner.
- iv. Engage with local communities and stakeholders to promote the importance of waste segregation and encourage participation in eco-friendly practices during the election period.

c. Minimization of Paper: -

- i. Minimize the use of paper for voter lists and electoral materials at polling stations.
- ii. Implement efficient practices like double side printing, to pre-view document before printing, optimization of layout, centralization of printing etc., to reduce unnecessary printing of documents.
- iii. Emphasize the use of eBooks and electronic documents over traditional paper-based materials.
- iv. Encourage the adoption of electronic methods for communication and documentation.

Note: While making endeavour to reduce use of paper if there is any statutory requirement to use papers will not be dispensed with.

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d. Minimization of fuel: -

- i. To Promote use of eco-friendly vehicles for transportation,
- ii. To encourage carpooling and public transportation,
- iii. To encourage utilization of renewable energy sources for campaign events,
- iv. To Consolidate polling locations to reduce the overall distance travelled by election officials and voters.

B) Awareness Measures/CB/SVEEP Activities: -

- i. To disseminate information to voters about the eco-friendly initiatives being implemented.
- ii. To encourage voters to utilize digital platforms for accessing election-related information.
- iii. To integrate environmental awareness modules into training programs for election officials.
- iv. To educate election staff on the importance of adhering to eco-friendly practices.
- v. To collaborate with local authorities, NGOs, and community groups to promote environmental responsibility.
- vi. To seek partnerships with organizations specializing in sustainable event management.
- vii. To encourage use of digital platforms and social media for election campaigns and voter education.
- viii. To encourage reduction of reliance on physical signage and banners by promoting virtual town halls and online debates.
- ix. To encourage candidates to use digital newsletters and email updates instead of traditional mailers.

C) In addition to above the following Broad parameters for Printing of Books/Materials in Election Commission of India: -

- I. Commission will issue a maximum of only 2 copies of Books/Materials to concerned CEO and CEO will have the flexibility to print additional copies as needed, considering both economic factors and the requirements of officials.

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- II. Further, requirements of each State vary. Therefore, in case CEOs require more printed books they may get the same done keeping the broad parameters laid down by ECI in view and for this purpose, CEOs may constitute a committee to monitor the printing/distribution, thereof.
 - III. Further, the IT Division of ECI will create e-Books for each book/instruction for listing them on the ECI website. A dedicated section for E-Books will be established.
 - IV. CEO concerned will ensure that the same is properly displayed on their website.
2. Proactive cooperation of all concerned in implementing these guidelines is solicited.



(Rahul Sharma)
Principal Secretary