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**STATE ELECTION COMMISSION, PUNJAB**

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**MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT FOR GRAM PANCHAYATS  
ELECTIONS**

By virtue of powers vested under Article 243-K of the Constitution of India and all other enabling provisions/ powers, the State Election Commission, hereby, issues the following Model Code of Conduct for the guidance of the contesting candidates, government departments and government officials, in order to ensure free, fair and peaceful elections to Gram Panchayats in the State of Punjab:

**MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT**

1. (a) The Code shall be known as the Model Code of Conduct for the Gram Panchayats elections and Model Code of Conduct will be effective in the revenue jurisdiction areas of the Gram Panchayats where elections are to be held.
- (b) It shall apply to all contesting candidates, State Govt. and Local Body functionaries and other public servants connected with local body elections.
2. This Code shall come into force with effect from the date of announcement of election programme for the conduct of elections.

3. No candidate shall indulge in any activity which may aggravate differences or create mutual hatred or cause tension between different castes and communities, religious or linguistic.
4. There shall be no appeal to caste or communal feelings for securing votes.
5. Places of worship and places used for religious preaching shall not be used as forum for election propaganda.
6. No criticism of any aspect of candidate's private life which is not connected with his public life shall be made nor any allegations made which are based on unverified facts or incidents.
7. Criticism of other candidates, if made, shall be confined to their policies and programmes, past record, and it shall not be based on unverified allegations.
8. Organizing demonstrations or picketing before the houses of individuals by way of protesting against their opinion or activity shall not be resorted to under any circumstances.
9. All candidates shall scrupulously avoid all activities which are corrupt practices and offences under the election laws, such as:
  - (i) To appeal for vote or not to vote on the basis of religion, caste or community and to use any religious symbol for soliciting votes.
  - (ii) To print or publish any poster, pamphlet, leaflet, circular or advertisement without mentioning the name and address of the printer and the publisher.
  - (iii) To publish a statement or news item which is false or not believed to be true with respect to a candidate's personal conduct or character with a view to adversely affect the prospects of his or her election.
  - (iv) To obstruct or disturb any election meeting organized by another candidate.

- (v) To take out processions or hold public meetings during the period of forty-eight hours ending with the hours fixed for the close of the poll in the case of Gram Panchayats.
  - (vi) To bribe or offer gift/reward in any form to voters.
  - (vii) To canvass or to appeal for votes within 100 meters of a polling station.
  - (viii) To use any conveyance or means of transport to ferry voters to or from the polling station.
  - (ix) To behave in an unruly manner within or near the polling station or to obstruct a polling officer in the discharge of his duty.
  - (x) To impersonate a voter or attempt to cast vote under the false name of voter.
10. No candidate, his supporters or workers shall put up unauthorised hoardings, banners, buntings, posters at any government building/property.
11. No candidate shall permit followers for using any private property for erecting flag staffs, pasting notices, posters or slogans etc., or suspending banner(s), without written permission from the owner/competent authority of the private property concerned. Further, a copy of such written permission shall forthwith be sent to the Returning Officer concerned.
12. If any complaint is received by the Returning Officer regarding defacement of public or private spaces by erecting advertisements, slogans banners, posters, etc. the Returning Officer shall serve a written notice for removal of the same. The expenses on advertisements will be included in the candidates election expenses. If, after due notice, the same are not removed, the Returning Officer shall take necessary action for removal, and the expenses of removal shall be included in the candidate's election expense.

13. No candidate, his agent, supporter or any member of a Political Party shall hold any meeting during the course of election in which liquor or any other intoxicant is served.
14. Every candidate, his agent, and supporter shall co-operate with the Officers on Election Duty to ensure peaceful and orderly polling.
15. No candidate shall hold public meeting or take out processions without obtaining necessary permission from the Competent Authority. Candidates would abide by prohibitory orders issued by the District Magistrate in this regard, if any.
16. No candidate shall use loud speakers without obtaining necessary permission from the Competent Authority and shall not use the loud speaker for purposes other than transmitting speeches live or recorded. The loud speakers shall not be used to transmit music or songs. The loud speakers so permitted shall be used only between 07.00 A.M. to 10.00 P.M and no loudspeaker shall be used with 48 hours of the time fixed for close of polls.
17. A public servant shall remain absolutely impartial during the elections and he shall not indulge in any campaigning activity for or against any contesting candidate.
18. While granting permission for organizing an election meeting at a public place, no distinction shall be made between the contesting candidates. In case more than one candidate or party requests for holding meeting at the same place and on the same date and time, the permission shall be granted to such candidate or party who approaches first.
19. Use of rest houses, circuit houses and other government accommodation should be permitted to all the candidates if so requested. However, no candidate or party shall be allowed to use such accommodations (including premises attached thereto) as a campaign office or for holding any public meeting for the purpose of election propaganda.

20. No contesting candidate, who is in-charge of or is in any manner connected with management of an aided educational institutions or any other institution receiving aid from the State or Central Government shall misuse the buildings, infrastructure, funds or vehicles belonging to such institution for furthering his/her electoral prospects.
21. Ordinarily, all meetings organized during election should be treated as election meetings and no government money should be spent on them. No government servant shall attend any such meeting except those who are in charge of maintenance of law and order or those deployed for security duties.
22. No vehicle, administrative machinery or building belonging to the government or local bodies or public undertakings, co-operative institutions, or any other institutions receiving Government aid, shall be used or deployed for any candidate for canvassing or for furtherance of the interest of a candidate in election in any manner, from the date of announcement of the election programme, till the completion of poll process.
23. State Ministers shall not combine their official visit with electioneering work and shall not make use of official machinery and personnel or other Government resources, including government vehicles, for furtherance of interests of any candidate.
24. The Ministers and other authorities shall not sanction grants/payment out of their discretionary funds for any gram panchayat from the time elections are announced by the Commission. Further, they shall not announce any financial grant in any form or promises thereof or make any promise of constructions of road, provision of drinking water facility etc. or make any adhoc appointment in government public undertaking etc. which may influence the voters in favour of any candidate. They shall not sanction any new scheme or make any announcement of any new scheme. Laying of

foundation stone of a scheme/project or inauguration of any specific project or scheme in any village/gram panchayat shall not be done during this period.

25. The District Electoral Officers-cum-District Magistrates are authorized to issue prohibitory orders for implementation of this Code.
26. The Election Commission is appointing Observers. If the candidates or their agents have any specific complaint or problem regarding the conduct of elections, they may bring the same to the notice of the Observer.

Dated: 20.09.2024  
Chandigarh

**By order**  
**State Election Commissioner, Punjab**  
**Chandigarh**

