

ECI issues directions for strict implementation of Model Code of Conduct for the general elections in 5 States/UT and bye-elections in 6 States

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1. The Election Commission of India (ECI) announced the schedule for the General Election to Legislative Assemblies of Assam, Kerala, Puducherry, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal **on March 15, 2026.**
2. As per the schedule, notifications issued today by ECI and the States/UT of **Assam, Kerala and Puducherry** have been published in their respective gazettes.
3. With this announcement, ECI has issued directions to Chief Secretary and Chief Electoral Officer of the respective States/UT regarding **immediate coming into force of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC)** in the State/UTs. The MCC shall also be applicable to the **Central Government** in respect of announcements/policy decisions for the States/UT concerned.
4. The Commission directed to **ensure strict compliance** with the instructions related to removal of defacement from Government, public and private property; misuse of official vehicles or Government accommodation by any political party, candidate or any other person connected with election; ban on issuance of advertisement at the cost of public exchequer.
5. The privacy of citizens must be respected, with no demonstrations or picketing outside private residences. Land, buildings, or walls shall not be used for flags, banners, or posters **without the owner's consent.**
6. A complaint monitoring system has been set up including a **Call Centre number 1950** in which complaints can be lodged by any member of the public or political party, with the DEO/RO concerned.
7. Citizens/political parties can also report MCC violations using the **C-Vigil App** on ECINET. Over **5,173 Flying squads** and over have been deployed across the States/UT to ensure that the complaints are attended to within 100 minutes. Besides this, over **5,200 Static Surveillance Teams (SSTs)** have also been deployed.
8. Political Parties are required to **inform police authorities in advance** of meetings and processions to enable traffic and security arrangements, to comply with prohibitory orders and to obtain necessary permissions for loudspeakers or other facilities.
9. **Ministers shall not combine official duties with electioneering** or use government machinery, transport, or personnel for campaign purposes.
10. Officials at all levels have been directed to **act impartially in enforcing MCC**, ensuring equal treatment of all parties and preventing misuse of official facilities. They must regulate meetings, processions and polling arrangements fairly, safeguard law and order and maintain the credibility of the electoral process.
11. The **SUVIDHA module has been activated on ECINET** where political parties can apply for usage of public places such as maidans and helipads, which would be allocated on first come first serve basis.

PK/GDH/RP

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