

PRESS RELEASE

The Election Commission of India in its letter No.3/ ER/ 2018/ SDR/ VOL-I, dated: 15.03.2019, instructed that under Section 126 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 inter-alia prohibits election campaign activities through public meetings, processions and displaying of election matter by means of television and similar apparatus and the purpose is to provide a period of tranquil (silence period) for the electors before the poll day. The instructions of Commission under Section 126 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 are as follows:

126.Prohibition of public meetings during period of forty eight hours ending with hour fixed for conclusion of poll.

- (1) No person shall
 - (a) convene, hold or attend, join or address any public meeting or procession in connection with an election; or
 - (b) display to the public any election matter by means of cinematograph, television or other similar apparatus; or
 - (c) propagate any election matter to the public by holding, or by arranging the holding of, any musical concert or any theatrical performance or any other entertainment or amusement with a view to attracting the members of the public thereto, in any polling area during the period of forty-eight hours ending with the fixed for the conclusion of the poll for any election in the polling area.
- (2) Any person who contravenes the provisions of sub-section (1) shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine, or with both.
- (3) In this section, the expression "election matter" means any matter intended or calculated to influence or affect the result of an election.

No political party or candidate or any other organization or person shall publish any advertisement in the print media on poll day and one day prior to poll day in all the phases of elections unless the contents of political advertisements are got pre certified by them from the MCMC at the State / District level, as the case may be. This will apply in the case of political advertisements to be published in the print media in circulation in the State / UTs as follows:

Phase and Date of poll	Restricted Days (Poll day and one prior to poll day)
Second phase – 18 th April, 2019	17 th and 18 th April 2019

During the silence period, star campaigners and other political leader should refrain from addressing the media by way of press conferences and giving interviews on election matters.

All registered Political parties having their headquarters in Tamil Nadu shall submit their applications for certification of any advertisement on Television channels / Cable Networks / Social media and on Radio **not later than 3 (three) days prior to the date of commencement of the broadcast / telecast. Any other person or unregistered political parties shall submit their applications not later than 7 (seven) days prior to the broadcast / telecast.**

All political parties are therefore informed to furnish the requisition for media certification before silence period i.e. before 5 pm on 13.04.2019 since the political advertisement will be telecasted / broadcasted up to 16.04.2019.

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