

PRESS RELEASE

There have been certain media reports regarding laxity in checking of a cavalcade of Thiru A Raja, the candidate from DMK party, at an inter state check post near Coonoor-Kerala. Based on the media reports and subsequent enquiry by Returning Officer, The Nilgiris, as also the Expenditure Observer, head of the Flying Squad Team Ms. Geetha has been suspended as lapses were found in performance of election duties. The entire FST team has been replaced. The Expenditure Observer also visited the spot and made enquiries. He also viewed the two videos recorded by the Video Surveillance teams. Both the Press video as well as the VST videos show casual and superficial checking. The other cars in the cavalcade were not checked at all.

The Commission has taken a serious note of the soft approach towards a prominent candidate. All political parties and candidates will be dealt with firmly, if found to be violating the MCC guidelines issued by ECI for a level playing field in ensuring free and fair elections.

Chief Electoral Officer
Tamilnadu.

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