

# LOK SABHA ELECTION

## 2019

**GREEN ELECTION**  
**PLASTIC FREE ELECTION**

**GREEN PROTOCOL PRACTICE**  
**QUERIES & REPLIES**



CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER



GOVERNMENT OF KERALA



HARITHA KERALAM MISSION



SUCHITWA MISSION

Lok Sabha Election 2019  
**Green Protocol Practice-Queries & Replies**  
Handbook

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# MESSAGE

Election will be held in Kerala on 23rd April 2019 as part of the Lok sabha election which is to be held in seven phases. Kerala, unlike other states, celebrates all fairs and festivals differently by keeping green protocol throughout. Kerala is preparing to conduct Election which is otherwise a festival of democracy by strictly following green protocol. The order of Hon'ble High Court of Kerala regarding the same has been conducive in following green protocol. This venture can be successfully envisaged only by the collective effort of the various political parties, the bureaucrats and the general public. Kerala is going to have an election following green protocol for the first time, in the history of India. So there may arise many doubts regarding the same. Anticipating this and to clear the doubts, Haritha Keralam Mission is publishing a handbook under their initiative - Green Protocol Practice: Queries & Replies. This handbook might guide Kerala to conduct election following green protocol to become a model to other states.

with best wishes

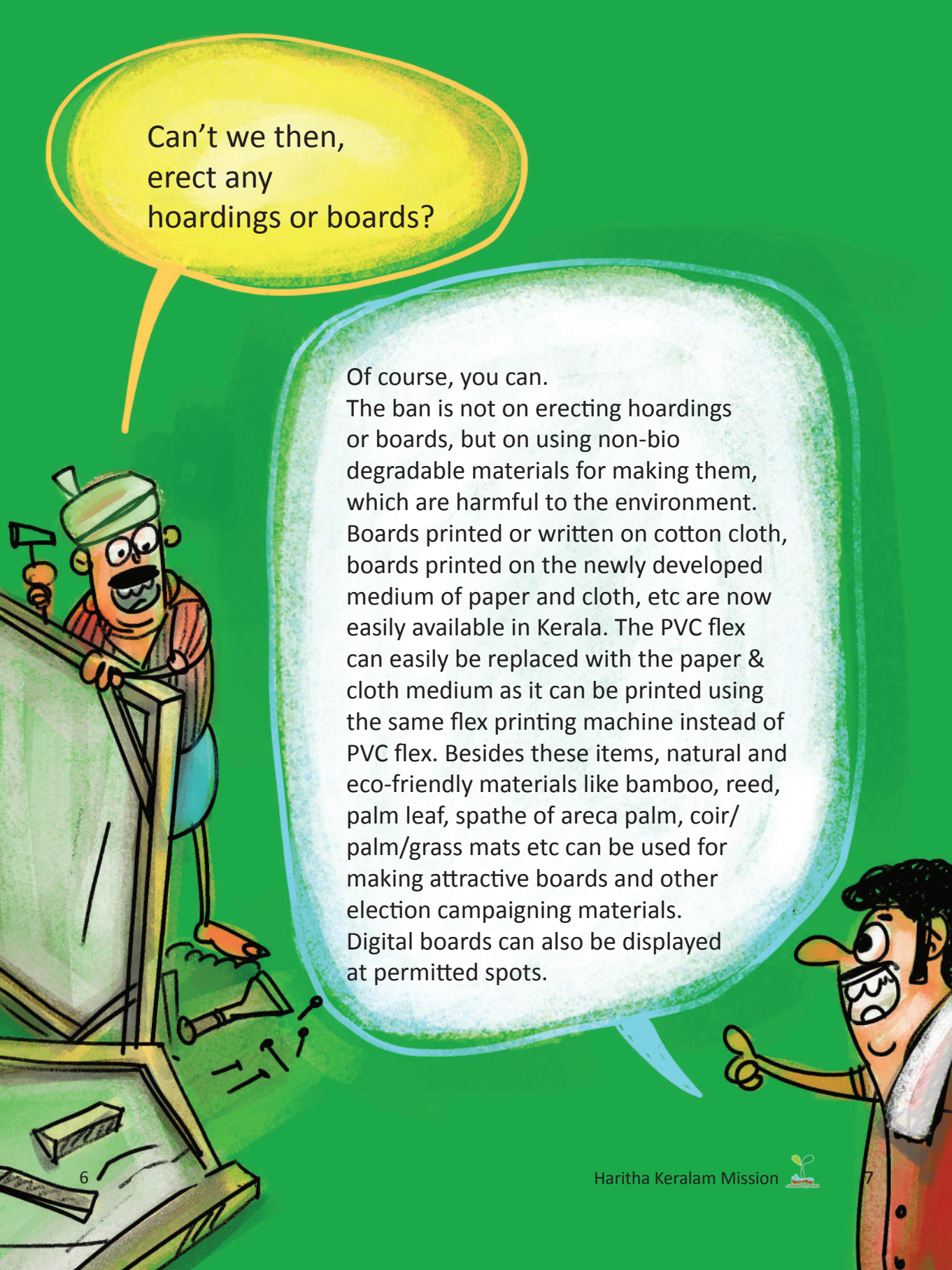
Teeka Ram Meena IAS  
Chief Electoral Officer



# **MAKE THIS ELECTION A GREEN ELECTION**

The Election Commission of India, in its Model Code of Conduct for the 2019 Lok Sabha Elections, has proposed to promote the usage of eco-friendly materials during the election campaign. The Hon'ble High Court of Kerala vide interim order No. WP(C) 7193/19 dated 11.03.2019 has banned the use of PVC flex boards and other non-bio degradable materials as campaign materials in Kerala. The Chief Electoral Officer, Kerala has released guidelines for conducting the election process in an eco-friendly manner by following green protocol procedures. Political parties and the public may have doubts regarding the complete and effective implementation of these orders. This handbook is intended to clear those doubts.





Can't we then,  
erect any  
hoardings or boards?

Of course, you can.  
The ban is not on erecting hoardings or boards, but on using non-bio degradable materials for making them, which are harmful to the environment. Boards printed or written on cotton cloth, boards printed on the newly developed medium of paper and cloth, etc are now easily available in Kerala. The PVC flex can easily be replaced with the paper & cloth medium as it can be printed using the same flex printing machine instead of PVC flex. Besides these items, natural and eco-friendly materials like bamboo, reed, palm leaf, spathe of areca palm, coir/ palm/grass mats etc can be used for making attractive boards and other election campaigning materials. Digital boards can also be displayed at permitted spots.





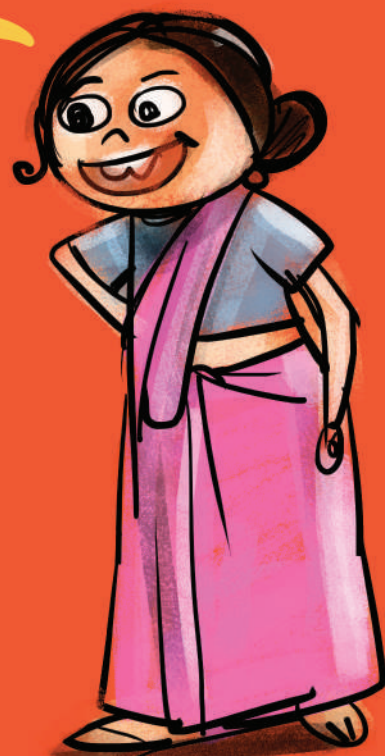
How can flags, festoons and other decorations be done?

Flags, festoons and other decorative items can be made either in cloth or in paper. Flags are usually made of cloth. Let us decide to avoid synthetic cloth and use only cotton cloth for this purpose this time. Festoons can also be made using cotton cloth or paper.





Can we avoid bottled drinking water during house visits and candidate's campaigning tour?



Surely. The squads going for house wise campaign can keep a steel water bottle with them, so as to avoid buying bottled drinking water. Water dispensers and steel cups kept inside the vehicle of the candidates can help avoiding thousands of disposable cups and water bottles.







Anything else to be taken care of in the campaign vehicles?



Yes. Use only eco-friendly materials to decorate the vehicles. Materials such as PVC flex, plastic and thermocol should be completely avoided. Instead, cotton cloth, paper and other environment friendly materials can be used.



What else needs to be taken care of during public meetings of candidates?



Ensure that the garlands used for receiving the candidates are not made of plastic. Garlands made of flowers, cotton yarn and shawls etc can be used instead. Let the affection towards our mother earth exist along with the affection towards our candidates.

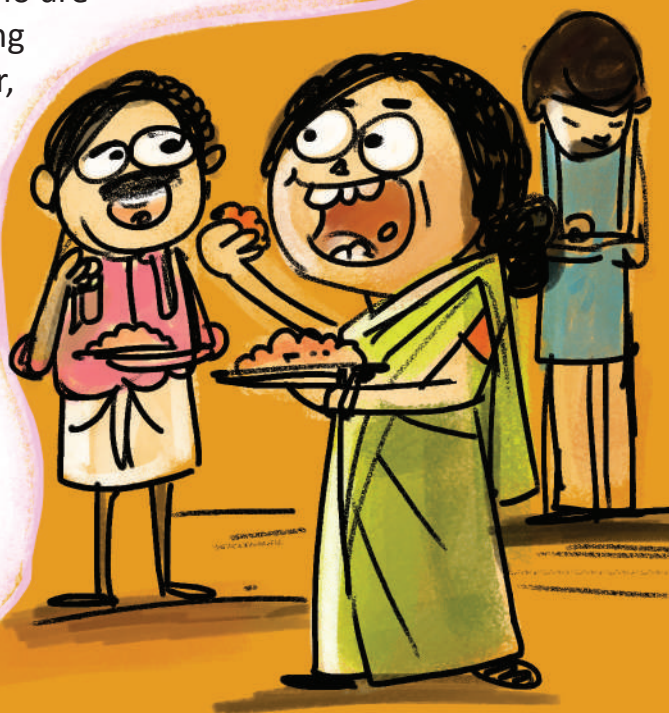






What precautions are to be taken for maintaining green protocol while serving food during the election campaign?

Parcels containing plastic packaging of food, disposable cups and plates made of paper, plastic and thermocol are to be avoided. Steel plates, glass tumblers etc can be used instead. These items are easily available on rent. If all those who are engaged in election campaigning across Kerala act in this manner, tonnes of non-bio degradable material that destroy the environment can be avoided. This in turn will avert the chance of an epidemic outbreak during the next monsoon season. The election expenditure can also be brought down by a great extent by this.





Can the political parties do anything to spread the message of green election?



Of course, they can. Green messages can be included in the notices and pamphlets printed for distribution as part of the election campaign. The candidates can also mention about their unique environment friendly campaigning methods or the environment friendly activities that the candidate will take up if elected.



Can we use election graffiti on walls?



Yes. Of course. But the habit of pasting PVC stickers on walls and pasting photos of candidates along with the election graffiti (wall writing) is increasing nowadays. These are to be completely avoided. Let the graffiti be done using brush and paint.






Is there any restriction for using arches made of cloths?


Though the arches are usually made of iron/ aluminium/ wooden frame and cloth covering, the letters affixed on them would be made of thermocol, which are not even recyclable. Let us avoid them this time, and ensure that the arches contain banners written on cotton cloth only and not with thermocol or PVC flex or plastic.







Is there anything  
to be taken care  
once the elections  
are over?



Sure. Even when the election campaign is done using only environment friendly materials, it may cause pollution if the campaign material is not properly disposed after the elections. Those who have installed the boards, banners, flags and festoons etc shall remove them as and when the election is over, segregate them and hand them over to the Local Self Government authorities. The Local Self Government authorities will send them for proper disposal. If all of us act this way, we would create another history. Let us create a new model for the entire nation, by collecting even the thrown away photo voter slips and send them for proper disposal or recycling.





Can political parties and the public get help from any agencies?

Of course. The Chief Electoral Officer, Kerala has entrusted Haritha Keralam Mission and Suchitwa Mission to set up facilitation units from State level to Local body level for assisting the political parties, officials and the general public in maintaining green protocol throughout the election process. Doubts regarding this can be cleared by contacting the district mission officers.



## PHONE NUMBERS OF DISTRICT MISSIONS

District	Haritha Keralam Mission	Suchitwa Mission
Thiruvananthapuram	9188120321	9495330575
Kollam	9188120322	7025861463
Pathanamthitta	9188120323	9446534312
Alappuzha	9188120324	9447971317
Kottayam	9188120325	8848893176
Ernakulam	9188120327	9496035576
Idukki	9188120326	9567667220
Trissur	9188120328	8075650342
Palakkad	9188120329	8281340294
Malappuram	9188120331	9447065781
Kozhikkode	9188120332	8921940154
Wayanad	9188120334	9605709436
Kannur	9188120335	9447257785
Kasaragod	9188120336	9495219554

### Do's

1. Boards, banners and hoardings containing cotton cloth, paper, reed, bamboo, palm leaves etc.
2. Water dispensers, steel bottles, steel cups, glass tumblers, steel plates etc
3. Cloth or paper flags and festoons, cloth arches
4. Food packed in steel vessels or plantain leaves
5. Flower garlands, cotton yarn and shawl for receiving the candidates

### Dont's

1. Boards, banners and hoardings containing plastic
2. All types of disposable items including bottled water, paper / plastic cups and plates
3. Plastic flags and festoons, arches using plastic or thermocol
4. Food items packed in plastic sheets and containers
5. Plastic garlands





**Hon'ble High Court Order : Direction to use only eco-friendly materials for the purpose of advertisement during ongoing election campaign in the state.**

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA AT ERNAKULAM

Present:

THE HONOURABLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE MR.HRISHIKESH ROY

&

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE A.K.JAYASANKARAN NAMBIAR

Monday, the 11th day of March 2019/20th Phalgun, 1940

WP(C) No.7193/2019(S)

**PETITIONER**

B.S. SYAMKUMAR, AGED 38 YEARS,  
S/O BALAKRISHNA PILLAI, KSRA-233 MUDIPPURA LANE,  
AVANAVAN CHERRY VILLAGE, CHITTATTINKARA DESOM,  
ATTINGAL, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM DISTRICT, PIN-695 101.

**RESPONDENTS**

1. STATE OF KERALA,  
REPRESENTED BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY,  
GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN-695 001.
2. THE PRINCIPAL SECRETARY,  
LOCAL SELF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT,  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN-695 001.
3. ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA,  
REPRESENTED BY THE CHIEF ELECTION COMMISSIONER KERALA,  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM-695 001.
4. THE PRINCIPAL SECRETARY,  
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT,  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN-695 001.
5. THE MEMBER SECRETARY,  
KERALA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD,  
PATTOM. P.O, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM-695 003.

Writ Petition (civil) praying inter alia that in the circumstances stated in the affidavit filed along with the WP(C) the High Court be pleased to issue a direction to use only eco-friendly materials for the purpose of advertisement during ongoing election campaign in the State.

This petition coming on for admission upon perusing the petition and the affidavit filed in support of WP(C) and upon hearing the arguments of SRI.M. KANNAN, Advocate for the petitioner, SRI.K.V. SOHAN, STATE ATTORNEY for R1, R2 & R4, SRI.MURALI PURUSHOTHAMAN, STANDING COUNSEL for R3 and of SRI.T. NAVEEN, STANDING COUNSEL for R5, the court passed the following:



**HRISHIKESH ROY, C.J. & A.K.JAYASANKARAN NAMBIAR, J.**

**W.P(C). No.7193 of 2019**

**Dated this the 11<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2019**

**ORDER**

**Hrishikesh Roy, C.J.**

The learned Adv.Sri.M.Kannan appears for the petitioner. Sri.K.V.Sohan, the State Attorney accepts notice for the respondents 1, 2 and 4. The learned counsel Sri.Mulari Purushothaman represents the *Election Commission of India* (respondent No.3). Sri.T.Naveen, the learned Standing Counsel appears *Kerala State Pollution Control Board* (respondent No.5).

2. This Public Interest Litigation (PIL) is filed by citizen, seeking prohibition in the usage of *Poly Vinyl Chloride (PVC) Flex Boards*, a key source of pollutants, in the forthcoming Lok Sabha Election, by the political parties/candidates. The petitioner contends that the use of such PV Flex Boards will be in negation of the *Environment (Protection) Act, 1986* as well as the *Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016* not to mention the violation of the rights of the citizens, under *Articles 21 and 48-A* of the *Constitution of India*, for a clean and safe environment.

3. In his turn, the learned counsel Sri.Murali Purushothaman representing the *Election Commission of India* produces the copy of the communication dated 26.02.2019, addressed to all recognised National/State Political Parties, which requires everyone to make the forthcoming election eco-friendly, and opt for elimination of single-use plastic materials in the election campaign. This is suggested



by the Election Commission, in the interest of human health and environment. The communication being relevant is extracted hereunder:-...

“.....

In this connection, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has approached the Commission vide letter No.12/79/2018-HSMD (Pt.) dated 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2019, (copy enclosed) with the request to impress upon all concerned to take up sustainable practices and try using alternate option to single-use plastic during elections. It, inter-alia, mentions:-

*"A lot of the campaigning material including posters, cut-outs, hoardings, banners, political advertisements, etc., is made of plastic. After the elections, the campaigning materials, are discarded and become waste. Such single-use plastic waste generated during campaigning does not get collected and causes choking of drainage and river systems, ingestion by stray animals, land and water pollution, open air burning, etc. Leading to adverse impacts on human health and environment. Some of these plastics are Poly Vinyl Chloride (PVC) based, which produces toxic emissions on burning.*

*A number of alternate options to use of plastic in campaigning material are available such as compostable plastics. Natural fabrics, recycled paper material, etc. which have a lesser environmental impact. Such materials need to be promoted as a sustainable and environmentally sound management practice. The upcoming General Elections present an excellent opportunity to introduce a behavioural change in election campaign and to promote sustainable practices."*

Your attention is also drawn to Para 3 of Commission's instructions No.509/241/ECI/LET/FUNC/JUD/RCC/2011 dated 20<sup>th</sup> April 2018, which specifies that

*"The Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 and the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016, and other applicable laws in this regard are hereby adopted for disposal of the campaign material by the local municipal authority and the cost for the same shall be recovered from the candidates or political parties, as the case may be, in accordance with the polluter pays principle"*





Accordingly, the Commissioner reiterates that all political parties should take adequate steps and measures to not use single-use plastic as campaign materials (posters, banners etc.) during the elections in the interest of human health and environment.

....."

4. Besides the above, this High Court in other proceedings has issued direction for removal of unauthorised *PVC Flex Boards* within the limits of various local authorities in the State.

5. Taking note of these developments and the recent direction issued by the *Election Commission of India*, the matter is admitted. We also deem it appropriate to order that all candidates and the National/State Political Parties must strictly adhere to the aforequoted guidelines of the *Election Commission*, so that only the eco-friendly materials are used during the election campaign and there is no use of *PVC Flex Boards* and other such non bio-degradable materials as campaign material, in the State of Kerala.

H/o.

Sd/-  
HRISHIKESH ROY,  
CHIEF JUSTICE

Sd/-  
A.K JAYASANKARAN NAMBIAR,  
JUDGE

mns

-TRUE COPY-

ASSISTANT REGISTRAR



# Guidelines issued by the Chief Electoral Officer, Kerala for Organizing Eco friendly Lok Sabha Election 2019



**കേരള സർക്കാർ**

**സംഗ്രഹം**

ഇലക്ഷൻ വകുപ്പ് - ലോക് സഭാ ഇലക്ഷൻ 2019 - പരിസ്ഥിതി സൗഹൃദ തിരഞ്ഞെടുപ്പ് നടത്തിപ്പ് സംബന്ധിച്ച മാർഗ്ഗരേഖകൾ - ഉത്തരവ് പുറപ്പെടുവിക്കുന്നു.

**ഇലക്ഷൻ (ജനറൽ) വകുപ്പ്**

**സ.ഉ (സാധാ) നം. 118/2019/ഇലക്.**

**തിരുവനന്തപുരം, തീയതി 12/03/2019**

- പരാമർശം 1) കേന്ദ്ര പരിസ്ഥിതി മന്ത്രാലയത്തിന്റെ 17.01.2019 ലെ 12/79/2018-HSMD(Pl.) നമ്പർ കത്ത്
- 2) കേന്ദ്ര തിരഞ്ഞെടുപ്പ് കമ്മീഷന്റെ 26.02.2019 ലെ 4/3/2019/SDR നമ്പർ കത്ത്
- 3) ബഹു. കേരള ഹൈക്കോടതിയുടെ 11.03.2019 ലെ ഇടക്കാല ഉത്തരവ്

**ഉത്തരവ്**

ആസന്നമായ ലോകസഭാ തിരഞ്ഞെടുപ്പ് പരിസ്ഥിതി സൗഹൃദ തിരഞ്ഞെടുപ്പ് ആയി നടത്തുന്നതിന്റെ ഭാഗമായി ഹരിത പരിപാലനചട്ടം വിജയകരമായി നടപ്പാക്കേണ്ടതുണ്ട്. ആയതിനാൽ മനുഷ്യനും, പരിസ്ഥിതിയ്ക്കും ആപൽക്കരമായ പ്ലാസ്റ്റിക്, പി.വി.സി, ഡിസ്പോസിബിൾ വസ്തുക്കൾ മുതലായവ പരമാവധി ഒഴിവാക്കി പുനരുപയോഗിക്കുവാൻ കഴിയുന്നതും, പുനഃചക്രമാണത്തിനു വിധേയമാക്കുവാൻ സാധിക്കുന്നതുമായ പരിസ്ഥിതി സൗഹൃദ വസ്തുക്കളുപയോഗിച്ച് 2019 ലെ ലോകസഭാ തിരഞ്ഞെടുപ്പ് പരിസ്ഥിതി സൗഹൃദമായി നടത്തുവാനുള്ള പരാമർശം (2) ലെ കേന്ദ്ര തിരഞ്ഞെടുപ്പ് കമ്മീഷന്റെ നിർദ്ദേശങ്ങളുടെയും പരാമർശം (3) ലെ ബഹു. കേരള ഹൈക്കോടതിയുടെ ഇടക്കാല ഉത്തരവിന്റെയും അടിസ്ഥാനത്തിൽ താഴെപ്പറയുന്ന നിർദ്ദേശങ്ങൾ നൽകിക്കൊണ്ട് ഉത്തരവ് പുറപ്പെടുവിക്കുന്നു.

1. വിവിധ സ്ഥാനാർത്ഥികളും, രാഷ്ട്രീയ പാർട്ടികളും, തിരഞ്ഞെടുപ്പ് പ്രചാരണത്തിന് ഉപയോഗിക്കുന്ന ബോർഡുകൾ, ബാനറുകൾ, തുടങ്ങിയവ നിർമ്മിക്കുന്നതിന് പ്ലാസ്റ്റിക്, പി.വി.സി മുതലായ വസ്തുക്കൾ ഉപയോഗിക്കുന്നതിന് പകരം പുനഃചക്രമാണം ചെയ്യാവുന്നതും, പരിസ്ഥിതിയ്ക്ക് അനുയോജ്യമായതുമായ പ്രകൃതി സൗഹൃദ വസ്തുക്കൾ മാത്രം ഉപയോഗിക്കണമെന്ന് ഉറപ്പു വരുത്തേണ്ടതാണ്.
2. രാഷ്ട്രീയ പാർട്ടികൾ പ്രചാരണത്തിനും, അലങ്കാരത്തിനുമായി ഉപയോഗിക്കുന്ന കൊടി തോരണങ്ങൾ പൂർണ്ണമായും പ്ലാസ്റ്റിക്, പി.വി.സി വിമുക്തമാക്കേണ്ടതാണ്.
3. തിരഞ്ഞെടുപ്പുമായി ബന്ധപ്പെട്ട ഔദ്യോഗിക പരസ്യങ്ങൾ, സൂചകങ്ങൾ, ബോർഡുകൾ തുടങ്ങിയവ കോട്ടൺ തുണി, പേപ്പർ തുടങ്ങിയ പുനഃചക്രമാണം ചെയ്യാൻ കഴിയുന്ന പരിസ്ഥിതി സൗഹൃദ വസ്തുക്കൾ മാത്രം ഉപയോഗിച്ച് നിർമ്മിക്കേണ്ടതും, എല്ലാത്തരം നീരോധിത പ്ലാസ്റ്റിക് വസ്തുക്കളും, ഡിസ്പോസിബിൾ വസ്തുക്കളും പരമാവധി ഒഴിവാക്കിക്കൊണ്ട് മാലിന്യം രൂപപ്പെടുന്നതിനുള്ള സാഹചര്യം ഒഴിവാക്കേണ്ടതുമാണ്.
4. പോളിംഗ് ബുത്തുകൾ/വോട്ടെണ്ണൽ കേന്ദ്രങ്ങൾ എന്നിവയുടെ ക്രമീകരണത്തിനും, ഇലക്ഷൻ സാധന സാമഗ്രികളുടെ കൈമാറ്റത്തിനും പ്ലാസ്റ്റിക് വസ്തുക്കളുടെ ഉപയോഗം പരമാവധി നിയന്ത്രിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്.

(...2)



5. പോളിംഗ് ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥരും, ഏജൻമാരും ഭക്ഷണ പദാർത്ഥങ്ങൾ, കുടിവെള്ളം മുതലായവ കൊണ്ടുവരുന്നവർ പ്ലാസ്റ്റിക് ബോട്ടിലുകളും കണ്ടെയ്നറുകളും പരമാവധി ഒഴിവാക്കേണ്ടതാണ്.
6. ഹരിതകേരളം, ശുചിത്വ മിഷൻ എന്നീ ഏജൻസികളുടെ നേതൃത്വത്തിൽ ജില്ലാ കളക്ടർ ജില്ലാ, താലൂക്ക് പഞ്ചായത്ത് തലത്തിൽ "ഗ്രീൻ പ്രോട്ടോക്കോൾ ഫെസിലൈറ്റേഷൻ യൂണിറ്റുകൾ" സജ്ജമാക്കേണ്ടതാണ്.
7. പൊതു തിരഞ്ഞെടുപ്പിനു ശേഷം തദ്ദേശസ്വയംഭരണ സ്ഥാപനങ്ങൾ, ഹരിതകേരള മിഷൻ, ശുചിത്വ മിഷൻ, സന്നദ്ധ സംഘടനകൾ, വിവിധ രാഷ്ട്രീയ പാർട്ടികൾ തുടങ്ങിയവയുടെ സഹായത്തോടെ ഇലക്ഷൻ ക്യാമ്പയിൻ മെറ്റീരിയലുകൾ നീക്കം ചെയ്ത് ശുചീകരണ പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങൾ നടത്തേണ്ടതാണ്.
8. തിരഞ്ഞെടുപ്പിന് ഔദ്യോഗികമായി നൽകുന്ന ഫോട്ടോ വോട്ടർ സ്ലിപ്പ് /രാഷ്ട്രീയ പാർട്ടികൾ നൽകുന്ന സ്ലിപ്പുകൾ എന്നിവ പോളിംഗ് ബുത്തിന്റെ പരിസരങ്ങളിൽ ഉപേക്ഷിക്കുന്ന പ്രവണത കണ്ടു വരുന്നുണ്ട്. ഇത് ഒഴിവാക്കുന്നതിനായി ഇവ ശേഖരിച്ച് കളക്ഷൻ സെന്ററുകളിൽ എത്തിച്ച് സ്കാപ്പ് ഡിപ്പോസിനു കൈമാറാനുള്ള നടപടികൾ ജില്ലാ കളക്ടർമാർ സ്വീകരിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്.

(ഗവർണ്ണറുടെ ഉത്തരവിൻ പ്രകാരം )

**ടീകാറാം മിണ**  
**ചീഫ് ഇലക്ടറൽ ഓഫീസർ**

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എല്ലാ ജില്ലാ ഇലക്ഷൻ ഓഫീസർമാർക്കും/എല്ലാ റിട്ടേണിംഗ് ഓഫീസർമാർക്കും/  
എല്ലാ തിരഞ്ഞെടുപ്പ് ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥർക്കും /എല്ലാ രാഷ്ട്രീയ പാർട്ടികൾക്കും

ഉത്തരവിൻ പ്രകാരം



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