

# ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001

No. 491/Media Policy/2021-Communication

Dated: 26<sup>th</sup> March, 2021

To,

All Print and Electronic Media

**Sub: Media Coverage during the period referred to in Section 126A of RP Act, 1951 – violations – regarding.**

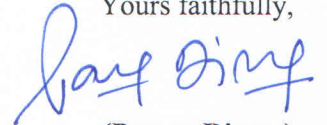
Madam/Sir,

Attention of all media is invited to the Commission's letter no. 491/Media Policy/2017 – Communication dated 30<sup>th</sup> March, 2017 (**enclosed**) by which the Commission had issued an advisory to all the media (electronic and Print) to refrain from telecasting/publishing programmes which in any way whatsoever predict the results of the elections during the prohibited period under 126A to ensure free, fair and transparent election.

2. The Commission is of the view that prediction of results of elections in any form or manner by way of predictions etc. by Astrologers, Tarot Readers, Political Analysts or by any persons during the prohibited period is violation of the spirit of Section 126A which aims to prevent the electors of constituencies still going to polls from being influenced in their voting by such predictions about the prospects of the various political parties.

3. In view of the above, all the media (Electronic and Print) are hereby advised not to publish/publicize any such article/programme related to the dissemination of results, during the prohibited period between **7:00 A.M on 27<sup>th</sup> March, 2021 (Saturday) and 7.30 PM on 29<sup>th</sup> April, 2021 (Thursday)** in the current General Elections to the Legislative Assemblies of Assam, Kerala, Puducherry, Tamil Nadu & West Bengal, 2021.

Yours faithfully,



(Pawan Diwan)

Under Secretary

Phone- 01123052133

E- Mail: [diwaneci@yahoo.co.in](mailto:diwaneci@yahoo.co.in)

Copy to:

1. The Secretary, Press Council of India, Soochna Bhavan, 8- CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi- 110003
2. Smt. Annie Joseph, Secretary General, News Broadcasters Association Mantec House, C- 56/5, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Sector 62, Noida – 201301
3. Guard File.

g. xing(?)

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA  
Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001

No.491/Media Policy/2017- Communication

111-12

Dated: 30<sup>th</sup> March, 2017

To

All Print and Electronic Media

Sub: Media Coverage During the period referred to in Section 126 A of R.P.Act, 1951-  
violations-regarding.

Madam/Sir,

Section 126 A (1) of R.P.Act, 1951 provides that "No person shall conduct any exit poll and publish or publicize by means of the print or electronic media or disseminate in any other manner, whatsoever, the result of any exit poll during such period, as may be notified by the Election Commission in this regard". Under the provisions of sub-section (2) of Section 126 A of R.P.Act, 1951, the above said period commences from the beginning of the hours fixed for poll on the first day of poll and continues till half an hour after closing of the poll in all the States and Union Territories.

2. In this connection, the Commission vide its Notification dated 4<sup>th</sup> March, 2017, in terms of the said Section 126A, specified the period starting from 7.00 AM on 04-02-17 and continuing till 5.30 PM on 09-03-17 as the period during which conducting any exit poll and disseminating result of any exit poll was prohibited in connection with the recently held general elections to Legislative Assemblies of five States.

3. Despite the above provisions of 126 A and notification of the Commission, it has been observed that some of the TV channels telecast certain programmes projecting the numbers of seat likely to be won by political parties. This was done during the period during which exit polls and dissemination of their results were prohibited. In one of the channels, the panelists on the show who were persons from different fields including political analysts put forward the projected number of seats likely to be won by different political parties in Uttar Pradesh.

4. The Commission is of the view that prediction of results of elections in any form or manner by way of predictions etc. by Astrologers, Tarot Readers, Political Analysts or by any persons during the prohibited period is violation of the of the spirit of Section 126A which aims

to prevent the electors of constituencies still going to polls from being influenced in their voting by such predictions about the prospects of the various political parties.

5. Election Commission has no hesitation in putting it on record that but for our Constitutional foundation, independent judiciary, faith and trust of citizens at large and political parties and civil society organisations in particular, and objective media reporting, including their compliance to laid down Code of Conduct, rules, laws etc., ECI would not have earned the kind of Recognition it got in Election Management World over. In this background, such attempts merely to score brownie points against the competitors for merely commercial reasons do not behove well.

6. All media (electronic and Print) are advised to refrain from telecasting/publishing similar programmes in future elections during the prohibited period under Section 126A to ensure free, fair and transparent election.

Yours faithfully,



(S. K. Das)

Under Secretary

Copy to:

✓ 1. Smt Annie Joseph, Secretary General, News Broadcasters Association  
Mantec House, C-56/5, 2nd Floor, Sector 62, Noida - 201 301

✓ 2. The Secretary, Press Council of India, Soochna Bhavan, 8-C.G.O. Complex, Lodhi Road,  
New Delhi-110003

