



**भारत निर्वाचन आयोग सचिवालय**  
**SECRETARIAT OF THE ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA**  
निर्वाचन सदन, अशोक रोड, नई दिल्ली-110001  
Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001

**No. 437/6/INST/ECI/FUNCT/MCC/2024 (IMPORTANT DAYS)**

**Dated: 2<sup>nd</sup> January, 2024**

To,

- (i) The Chief Secretaries  
of all States and Union Territories.
- (ii) The Chief Electoral Officers  
of all States and Union Territories.

**Subject: -Model Code of Conduct – Instruction- Celebration of Important Days – Regarding.**

Reference: Commission's instructions:

- (i) No. 437/6/98-PLN-III, dated 10.01.1998
- (ii) No. ECI/GE98-437/6/BR/98-PLN-III, dated 27.01.1998
- (iii) No. 437/6/99-PLN-III, dated 28.07.1999
- (iv) No. 437/6/99-PLN-III, dated 16.08.1999
- (v) No. 437/6/2004/PLN-III, dated 28.09.2004, and
- (vi) No. 437/6/INST/2012-CC&BE, dated 24<sup>th</sup> January 2012

Madam/Sir,

The Commission has issued, in the past, a number of instructions in regard to celebration of important days during the period of enforcement of Model Code of Conduct. Following are the consolidated instructions in supersession of all the instructions issued vide letters listed above:

**I. Celebration of Independence Day/Republic Day - attendance of political functionaries**

(i) There is no objection to Central Ministers/Chief Ministers/Ministers in the States to do the honours in the main Republic Day/Independence Day functions at various locations subject to the condition that in their speeches, they should confine themselves to extolling the achievements of the Martyrs in securing freedom of the country, glory of the Indian State and so on. Under no circumstances, they should become a platform for political campaign.

(ii) In view of the fact that Republic Day celebrations will come during the election process and that the Central Ministers, Chief Ministers and Ministers in the States belong to political parties and

alliances and may even be the candidates, the Commission, purely in the interest of ensuring a level playing field, directs that no Central Minister/Chief Minister/Minister or any other political functionary in the States/Ex-MPs shall do the honours at any such function at any location of within their home district or constituency or from where he or she is a contesting candidate or intends to contest. The Prime Minister and Chief Minister may however do so from the National Capital and State headquarters during Independence Day as per long standing conventions. Further, the dignitaries who will hoist the National Flag at the functions may travel directly to that place from the place of election campaign, if any. The travel expenditure for this purpose may be borne by the State Government concerned. They do not need to travel between these places via headquarter.

(iii) The Commission has no objection to organisation of Kavi Sammelan, Mushairas or other cultural functions organised in connection with the celebrations and being attended by the Central Ministers, Chief Ministers, Ministers in the States and other political functionaries. However, utmost care should be taken to ensure that no political speeches are made on the occasion.

(iv) The investiture ceremonies at the National and State level and distribution of Tamra Patras to freedom fighters, etc. should be done according to the existing conventions.

## **II. Celebration of Sadbhavana Diwas/Gandhi Jayanti - participation of political functionaries**

(i) Central Ministers/Chief Ministers/Ministers in the States can participate in the Celebration of *Sadbhavana Diwas/Gandhi Jayanti* subject to the condition that the theme of their speeches should be confined only to the Promotion of harmony among the people and extolling deeds and achievement of Mahatma Gandhi and utmost care should be taken to ensure that no political speeches highlighting the achievements of party in power are made on the occasion. Under no circumstances, it should become a platform for political campaign.

(ii) Messages, if any, issued in the name of Ministers, should be confined to the theme of National Integration and Mahatma Gandhi only and should carry no photograph of the concerned Minister.


## **III. Hosting of Iftar Party**

The Commission is of the view that any entertainment at State cost on a religious occasion would not be correct and specially during the continuance of the election process. However, any

individual is free by all means to host any such party in his personal capacity and meeting the expense with his or her personal account on their own.

The above instructions of the Commission shall be brought to notice of all concerned for strict compliance.

Yours faithfully,

  
**(NARENDRA N. BUTOLIA)**  
**SR. PRINCIPAL SECRETARY**