



A Platform of Organizations and People Supporting Environment
RA 449 Sector IV Salt Lake, Kolkata 700105
Phone 9831172060
E mail : sabujmancha@gmail.com

Kolkata 10.12.21

Mr. Saurabh Kumar Das, IAS (R)
State Election Commissioner
West Bengal State Election Commission
18, Sarojini Naidu Sarani, Kolkata 700017

Sub : Flagging off our concerns and demands vis-à-vis protection of environment pre, during and post election period to be held in Kolkata Municipal Corporation on 19.12.21 as well as in municipal elections planned in near future within rest of the state

Sir,

Greetings from Sabuj Mancha; the platform of organizations and individuals working at the cause of environment in West Bengal, working since 2009.

We are writing this letter to you from our previous experiences from earlier election that most of the time, the activities of the participant political parties and candidates during campaigning and holding of election cause considerable environment pollution. So we request you to kindly issue appropriate instructions before the ensuing election to all the political parties and candidates to follow the environmental rules and guidelines as mandated under law. We refer few for your convenience.

1. Use of plastic in banners, posters and other campaign materials may be avoided as far as possible. If used, only plastic with permissible thickness, as per law, should be used; and once the election gets over all wastes generated should be cleaned up by the respective political parties / candidates/ KMC within 24 hours and the plastic waste should be sent for recycling and West Bengal Pollution Board, as a regulatory body, should take responsibility to implement the process.

As per Waste Management Rules, 2016, in case of any assembly of more than 100 persons, the organizers of the assemblies have to take responsibility for proper management of the waste produced in those gatherings.

2. Sound norms should be meticulously followed in accordance to the directions issued from time to time by Kolkata High Court, National Green Tribunal and West Bengal Pollution Control Board. Sound limiters must be fitted to all the microphones used in campaigning at open spaces which should take place within stipulated hours (6 am to 10 pm); and that



A Platform of Organizations and People Supporting Environment

RA 449 Sector IV Salt Lake, Kolkata 700105

Phone 9831172060

E mail : sabujmancha@gmail.com

too after obtaining due clearance from local police stations. DJ boxes, often used by some candidates, must be prohibited.

3. During election campaign any tree or plant should not be harmed. Felling and chopping of branches of trees and fixing nails on the tree branches for fixing banners, posters, festoons etc. must be prohibited.
4. We understand an elaborate arrangement has been made for using disposable gloves and masks etc during voting to ensure that Covid infection cannot be spread. While hailing the decision, we request you to see that the medical waste, generated in the process, should be handled, managed and disposed as per the Biomedical Waste Management Rules; and in accordance to judicial orders in this context.

Hope you will take necessary action, and pass appropriate directions to political parties; candidates; KMC; WBPCB and line government agencies, immediately and ensure protection of already vulnerable environment deemed to be threatened during election campaigns and process thereof.

Thanking you,

Naba Dutta

General Secretary, Sabuj Mancha

Copy to Sri Nilanjan Sandilya, IAS ; Secretary, West Bengal State Election Commission