## GOVERNMENT OF I'UDUCHERRY PUDUCHERRY STATE EXECTUIVE COMMITTEE -OoO-

No.104/PSEC/COVID19/2021

Puducherry, dt. 27.04.2021

## ORDER

Sub:PSEC - Containment of Resurgence of COVID-19-W.P. No. 12184/2020 of Hon'ble High Court Madras - Directions - Compliance - Instructions-Issued - Reg.

Ref: 1. The Order of Hon'ble High Court Madras in W.P.No.12184/2020 dated 26/04/2021.

 The Order No.104/PSEC/COVID19/2021 dated 26-04-2021 of the State Executive Committee, Puducherry.

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Whereas the current situation of COVID-19 cases across the Union Territory of Puducherry is in increasing trend. The Union Territory of Puducherry Administration had already imposed Corona Night Curfew and Lockdown restriction upto 30/04/2021 vide order under reference 2<sup>nd</sup> cited above. The counting of votes casted during the General Election to the Puducherry Legislative Assembly is scheduled to be held on 02/05/2021. The Hon'ble High Court, Madras had made certain suggestions vide order dated 26/04/2021 in W.P.No.12184/2020 in the wake of COVID-19 epidemic.

- Accordingly, the Order No.104/PSEC/COVID19/2021 dated 26/04/2021 by imposing restrictions is extended upto 3<sup>rd</sup> May'2021 – Gathering and congregation in any form is strictly prohibited. People are advised to remain indoor until necessity arises.
- There shall be unhindered movement for election related staff and of Candidates/ Counting Agents to enable them to reach Counting Hall/ Venue.
  - (2) Contesting candidates and agents and the staff involved in counting process should undergo for RTPCR testing. Further, there shall be a back up plan to deploy RAT in case of RTPCR testing pose any constraints. Those entering Counting Hall should carry a negative test report (of RTPCR failing with of RAT).
  - (3) The Counting of Votes on 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2021 shall be undertaken as per the guidelines / instruction of ECI in compliance of COVID Protocol, without any compromise at all and there should be appropriate measures in place.
  - (4) As directed by the Election Commission of India vide its letter No.464/INST/2021/EPS dated 27/04/2021, no victory procession after the counting on 02/05/2021 shall be permissible. Not more than 2 persons shall be allowed to accompany the winning candidate or his / her authorised representative receive the certificate from the Returning Officer concerned.

(ASHOK KUMAR, I.A.S.) SECRETARY (R&R) / MEMBER SECRETARY (SEC)

To

- 1. All Members of the State Executive Committee, Puducherry
- 2. All Secretaries to Government, Puducherry
- 3. The Director General of Police, Puducherry.
- 4. The District Collector -Cum- Chairman, DDMA, Puducherry / Karaikal.
- 5. The District Election Officer, Puducherry / Karaikal.
- 6.All Returning Officer, Puducherry / Karaikal
- 7. The Regional Administrator, Mahe / Yanam.
- 8. All Heads of Departments, Puducherry

## Copy to:

- 1. The Advisors to HLG, Puducherry
- 2. The Chief Secretary to Govt., Puducherry
- 3. The Chief Electoral Officer, Puducherry
- 4. The Secretary to HLG, Puducherry