

Dear Friends

At the onset, I would like to convey my and my team's great pleasure in the election process so far.

It was a great exercise for us, right from planning the process, forecasting the difficulties and bringing up solutions.

We have tried to solve any objection raised so far also.

All this was done in an extremely healthy and of course, competitive environment and it is our endeavour to see that it continues to the end.

However, a few general rules for conduct are not out of place.

For the Voter:

Please remember, you are first of all, officers of AAI. At all times, ensure that the dignity of your profession, Officer like quality, etc. is upheld.

Please do not indulge in sloganeering, making posters, etc. and in NO case disturb the work place. Also, no personal attacks on any candidate or his/her family.

Also do not indulge in casting any aspersion like cheating, corruption, etc. which are without proof. Remember, if you do NOT have any proof, do NOT accuse.

For the Candidates:

All of the above hold good for the candidates also. There may be temptations for indulging in accusation, but do so only on the policy or the qualities of any opponent, never on his personal integrity.

Also do NOT, at any point drag his/her family at any time. Again, to reiterate, no accusation of corruption, cheating, etc. without proof. If you do NOT have any proof, do NOT accuse. Very senior and very well experienced candidates are in the fray, and needless to say, I do not have to advice them on any of these. Let me also place our deep satisfaction and appreciation on the more than cooperative and helping hand extended so far.

For the current CEC:

All the posts are held by very senior and very well experienced officers and for me to tell them about the rules make no sense. It is a matter of great satisfaction, that, till now, no pressure of any kind, has been applied or sought to be applied on us, rather, they have been extremely cooperative in meeting some deadlines like membership list, etc.

With this, I expect them to also desist from writing letters to the Management about issues which are not very urgent or critical in nature. I leave it to their fair judgement in taking this decision.

What may sound, not urgent, from others view may, in fact, be urgent also and that is the reason, the Election Commission is not taking over any other role here.

Please also remember that the Election Commission cannot act like the CEC at any juncture.

With this, I and my team would like to assure you a very fair and transparent election.

Thanking You

Sajeeth Kumar
Chief Election Commissioner