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

No. 491/SM/2013/Communication  Dated: 18th March, 2014

To

1. Ms. Chitrerita Chatterjee  
   Associate Vice President  
   Internet & Mobile Association of India  
   C-36 (Basement), East of Kailash,  
   News Delhi.

2. Chief Grievance Officers of major social networking sites

Subject: Use of internet in election campaigning. – regarding

Sir/Madam,

As you are aware, the Commission is very concerned with the use of internet/social networking sites in election campaigning. You may also recall the discussion held with the representatives of social networking sites in the Commission’s Secretariat on 18th November, 2013. As the Election Commission of India has mandate to conduct free and fair elections under Article 324 of the Constitution of India, the Commission has already directed political parties and candidates in election fray to observe the laws and instructions which relates to the use of electronic media during their election campaigns, also in respect of their use of social media. The related guideline is attached herewith. In pursuance of the same, the Commission would emphasize the following:

1. No political advertisement shall be accepted and displayed on internet and internet based media without pre-certification.
2. Internet sites shall inform the Commission regarding the expenditure incurred by the political parties/candidates on political advertisements, when requested for.
3. Internet based media will do active scrutiny to ensure that content displayed by them during the electoral process is not unlawful or malicious or violative of the Model Code of Conduct.
4. In case of any unlawful content coming to the notice of the election machinery and brought to the attention of internet based media, the same would be removed forthwith.

Please acknowledge receipt.

Your faithfully,

(Rahul Sharma)  
Under Secretary

Enclosure: Commission’s guidelines dt 25.10.2013
Copy to: CEOs of all the States/UTs
To

The Returning Officer
1-Tripura West Parliamentary Constituency
(District Magistrate & Collector)
West Tripura, Agartala

The Returning Officer
2-Tripura East (ST) Parliamentary Constituency
(District Magistrate & Collector)
Dhalai, Ambassa

The District Election Officer
(D.M. & Collector),
(Khowai District, Khowai/Sepahijala,Bishramganj/
Gomati, Udaipur/South Tripura, Belonia/
Unakoti, Kailashahar/North Tripura,Dharmanagar

The Asstt. Returning Officer to Parliamentary Constituency
(Sub-Divisional Magistrate)
Sadar/Mohenpur/Jirania/Bishalgarh/
Jimpuija/Sonamura/Khowai/Teliamura/
Udaipur/Amarpur/Karbook/Santirbazar/
Belonia/ Sabroom/Gandacharra/
Ambassa/Kamaipur/L.T.Valley/Kailashahar/
kumarghat/Dharmanagar/Panisagar/Kanchanpur

Subject : - Restrictions on use of internet in Election Campaigning – regarding

Sir/Madam,

I am directed to send herewith the letter No. 491/SM/ 2013/Communication, Dated: 18th March, 2014 of Election Commission of India regarding restrictions on use of internet in Election Campaigning by political parties and Candidates for your kind information and necessary action.

Yours faithfully,

(D.C. Das)

Addl. Chief Electoral Officer

Copy to :

1. The Director, ICA, Gandighat, Agartala, Tripura(w) with a request to publish the said instruction of the Commission in the E- Sambad of your department.


3. The Managing Director, www.tripura infoway.com, Banamalipur, opposite of Nazrul Kalakshetra, Agartala(w)
