

ELECTION COMMISSION

Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu,
F-Block, M.S. Apartments,
Kasturba Gandhi Marg,
New Delhi – 110 001

No. 8-9/EC/DNH/2020

Dated the 24th October, 2020

To,

The Director of Panchayat and Municipal Elections,
Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu,
Moti Daman -396 230.

Subject:- General Elections to Panchayats and Municipal Councils - 2020 in Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, issue of authority letters to media persons - reg.

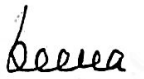
Sir/Madam,

I am directed to refer to your letter No.JS/PE-ME/ELEC/Misc.2020/240 dated 19.10.2020 on the above noted subject and to state that the Commission hereby authorizes the Collector/District Election Officer of respective Districts, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, to issue authority letters to the media persons ^{as per} on the guidelines issued by this Commission and the Election Commission of India from time to time for coverage of polling stations and counting centers during the ongoing General Election 2020 to Panchayats and Municipal Councils in Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu.

Yours faithfully,

Encl:

1. Guidelines for Media Coverage
2. Authority Letter


(S.P. Meena) 24/10,
Secretary

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GUIDELINES FOR MEDIA COVERAGE OF GENERAL ELECTIONS -2020 TO PANCHAYATS AND MUNICIPAL COUNCILS IN DADRA AND NAGAR HAVELI AND DAMAN AND DIU

1. Elections are the bedrock of democracy and important event of mass participation in public affairs. As such, there should be as much transparency as practicable in the conduct of elections.
2. Rule (58) of the Daman and Diu Panchayats (Election Procedure) Rules, 2014, Rule (57) of the Daman and Diu Municipalities (Elections) Rules, 1995, Rule (58) of the Dadra and Nagar Haveli Panchayats (Election Procedure) Rules, 2014, Rule (57) of the Dadra and Nagar Haveli Municipal Council (Elections) Rule, 2005 provides that the Presiding Officer shall regulate the number of electors to be admitted at any one time inside the polling station and shall exclude there from all persons other than:-
 - a) polling officer;
 - b) public servants on duty in connection with election;
 - c) persons authorised by the Commission;
 - d) candidates their election agents and one polling agent of each candidate;
 - e) a child in arms accompanying an elector;
 - f) a person accompanying a blind or infirm elector who cannot move without help; and
 - g) such other persons as the returning officer of the presiding officer may employ for the purpose of election.
3. Rule (77) of the Daman and Diu Panchayats (Election Procedure) Rules, 2014, Rule (76) of the Daman and Diu Municipalities (Elections) Rules, 1995, Rule (77) of the Dadra and Nagar Haveli Panchayats (Election Procedure) Rules, 2014 and Rule (76) of the Dadra and Nagar Haveli Municipal Council (Elections) Rule, 2005 provides that the returning officer shall exclude from the place fixed for counting of votes all persons except:-
 - a) such persons (to be known as counting supervisors and counting assistants) as he may appoint to assist him in the counting;
 - b) persons authorised by the Commission;
 - c) public servants on duty in connection with election; and
 - d) candidates, their election agents and counting agents.

4. Subject to the powers of the authorities competent to impose any restriction in pursuit of the maintenance of law and order, no permission is needed by any person, including a media person, for visiting any constituency or moving around in any constituency where the election is being held. Every person is free to observe the elections. Entry into the polling stations and counting centres is, however, regulated by the statutory provisions mentioned above.
5. In addition to the persons directly connected with poll and counting, such persons as are specifically authorized by the Election Commission can alone enter the polling stations and counting centres. The exclusive power of the Election Commission to permit persons, including media person, to enter the polling stations & counting centres also includes the power to refuse an entry pass to any person, if, in the opinion of the Commission, there are sufficient reasons to do so.
6. A media person seeking entry into the polling stations and the counting centres shall apply giving full particulars, including his name, designation, news agency / newspapers/ periodical/ electronic media channel which he represents and the name(s) of the constituency(ies) he wants to cover. He will also submit two passport size photographs along with his application. There will be no restriction on the number of constituencies which an applicant may like to cover. For an electronic media team with more than one person, each individual member will need a separate authority letter.
7. The application for the grant of authority letters for entry into polling stations & counting centres will be submitted to the Director of Panchayat and Municipal Elections, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu /District Election Officer/Collector of the respective districts. The Collector is authorized to issue authority letters to the applicants.
8. Authority letters issued will be subject to the conditions mentioned therein. Any violation of the conditions will automatically invalidate the authority letter.
9. Media persons with authority letters shall be allowed to enter inside the polling station by the Presiding Officer after verification of such authority letters. However, they will be allowed inside in very small numbers in batches and the actual numbers will be determined taking into account the size of the room and the space available, the number of electors waiting to cast their votes and other relevant factors. The Presiding Officer will have full discretion regarding the entry of the media persons inside the polling booth taking into account the situation obtaining at the relevant time and all other relevant factors. While allowing such media persons inside the polling station, the Presiding Officer may also further regulate the actual coverage by indicating a definite position beyond which they should not proceed.

10. Representatives of the Government owned media, Public Relations Department, Directorate of Information and Publicity, etc. are not entitled to any special permission/authorisation.

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AUTHORITY LETTER

(For entry-re-entry into the Polling/Counting Centre)

NOT TRANSFERABLE

(Not valid without seal and signature of the issuing Authority)

No.	Dated:
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The Election Commission hereby authorises the entry/re-entry of Shri/Smt/Kumari _____
representing _____

_____ inside the Polling Stations & Counting Centres set up in connection with the
General Elections- 2020 to Panchayats and Municipal Councils in Dadra and Nagar
Haveli and Daman and Diu, on the dates specified below.

Date of Poll _____

Date of Counting _____

Photo of the holder of the authority letter
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Signature of the holder
of the authority letter
Order

By

District Election Officer/Collector

.....

Seal

TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR USE OF THIS AUTHORITY LETTER

- (1) This authority letter is issued subject to the specific condition that the bearer of this letter shall, at all times, obey the directions of the Returning Officer/Assistant Returning Office/ Presiding Officer and Officer and Officers on duty at the Polling Stations and Counting Centres.
- (2) This authority letter is non-transferable.
- (3) The person in whose name the authority letter is issued must carry his photo identity card and visiting card issued by the organization which he/she represents for easy identification.
- (4) Any violation of the condition mentioned above will render the authority letter invalid.
- (5) The authority letter is valid for entry/re-entry into Polling Stations/Counting Centres only on the date(s) mentioned in the authority letter.
- (6) The authority letter should be surrendered to the Issuing Authority by the holder after the election is over.