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# புதுச்சேரி மாநில அரசிதழ்

## La Gazette de L'État de Poudouchéry

### The Gazette of Puducherry

PART - I

சிறப்பு வெளியீடு

EXTRAORDINAIRE

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அதிகாரம் பெற்ற  
வெளியீடு

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No.		Poudouchéry	Lundi	6	Avril	2026 (16 Chaitra 1948)
No.		Puducherry	Monday	6th	April	2026

GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY  
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT MAGISTRATE, KARAIKAL

No. E.18/DM/D1/GEPLA/2026.

Karaikal, dated 05th April 2026.

ORDER

(UNDER SECTION 163 of BNSS, 2023)

Whereas, the Election Commission of India *vide* its Press Note No. ECI/PN/029/2026, dated 15-03-2026, has declared the schedule for General Elections to the Puducherry Legislative Assembly 2026 and the said election will be held on 09-04-2026 in Karaikal District;

And whereas, under section 126 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, during the period of 48 hours ending with the hour fixed for the close of poll, the campaign shall come to an end. After the closure of campaign period, no campaign shall take place within the constituency and there shall be restrictions on the presence of political functionaries, party workers, procession leaders, campaign functionaries, *etc.*, who have been brought from outside the constituencies and who are not voters of the constituencies. Therefore, such persons should not remain present in the constituency after the end of the campaign period, as their presence may undermine the atmosphere for a free and fair poll;

And whereas, as per the instructions of the Election Commission of India, orders under section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023 have to be issued regarding the ban on unlawful assembly and prohibition on holding of public meetings during the period of 48 hours ending with the hour fixed for the close of poll;

And whereas, no loudspeakers fitted on vehicles of any kind, or any other manner whatsoever, shall be permitted to be used in Karaikal District during the said period of 48 hours ending with the hour fixed for the close of poll;

And whereas, cellular phones, cordless phones, *etc.*, shall not be allowed within the 100 metre perimeter of polling stations or inside the Polling Booth. No arms should be carried inside the polling station. Restrictions, however, do not apply to Officers in-charge of Law and Order, and Security Personnel on duty near the Polling Booth, for use of such instruments in the course of discharge of their official duties. Similarly, restriction on the use of cellular phones, mobile phones, *etc.*, do not apply to the observers appointed by the Commission and Officers in-charge of polling duties and persons drafted for polling duty, in course of their official duties;

And whereas, no unauthorized persons should be present inside the polling station at any time or during the Poll.

And whereas, I am satisfied that there is reason to believe that unknown miscreants and disgruntled persons may attempt to create disorder and trouble outside the polling process, thereby causing a breach of peace and affecting public tranquility. Hence, there is sufficient ground for immediate preventive action;

Therefore, in order to ensure free, fair and peaceful conduct of elections, and strict compliance with the instructions and rules laid down by the Election Commission of India, and in exercise of the power conferred under section 163 of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, I, Ishita Rathi, I.A.S., District Magistrate, Karaikal District, do hereby promulgate the following prohibitory order, effective from 6.00 p.m. on 07-04-2026 till 6.00 a.m. on 10-04-2026 in Karaikal District:

- (1) Ban on unlawful assembly and holding of public meetings/rallies.
- (2) Prohibition on the presence of electors or campaigners who are not voters of the constituencies in the District.
- (3) Ban on the use of Loudspeakers.
- (4) Prohibition on displaying any election matter, including results of Opinion polls or any other poll surveys, in any electronic media.

Any violation of this order shall be punishable under section 223 of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (BNS) and other relevant provisions of law under the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (BNSS).

However, the expression “unlawful assembly” in this order shall not restrict citizens from going about their normal business and chores, casting their vote, or celebrating the festival of democracy in the proper spirit. It shall also not restrict gatherings for private functions or house-to-house visits during the 48 hours period in connection with door-to-door campaigning. This Order shall not apply to Government Agencies/Officials involved in Law and Order enforcement, conduct of elections, or maintenance of essential services.

Given the emergent nature of case and circumstances, serving notice to the concerned parties in due time is not possible. Hence, this order is passed *ex parte* under section 163(2) of BNSS, 2023.

At Karaikal, dated 05th day of April 2026.

**ISHITA RATHI, I.A.S.,**  
District Magistrate.