

OFFICE OF THE RETURNING OFFICER
Elections Nov' 13 – Jan' 14)
India Islamic Cultural Centre
87-88, Lodhi Road, New Delhi – 110003

A meeting of Candidates for various posts in India Islamic Cultural Centre was taken by the Returning Officer on the 12th December, 2013 at 11.00 AM to discuss a draft code and certain other points for obtaining consensus. Twenty one candidates and one representative authorized by Mr. Feroze Abbasi, a candidate the post of Member of Board of Trustees attended the meeting. In the meeting there was consensus on the following points:-.

1. In case of voting in person, the ballot paper shall be dropped in the sealed ballot box kept in the polling premises personally by the elector himself.
2. The voters shall be identified with the help of the Identity Cards issued by India Islamic Cultural Centre or any other document bearing his photograph and name, such as (i) PAN Card, (ii) Election Identity Card, (iii) Aadhar Card (iv) Identity Card issued by their employer, (v) Driving Licence, (vi) Pass Port etc. If the elector fails to produce any document to identify him, the Returning Officer shall exercise his discretion to allow him to vote.
3. On the day of polling and counting of votes, either the candidate himself or his election agent (only one person) at a time shall be allowed in the premises.
4. For issuing identity card for candidate and his Election Agent, the Candidate will apply in prescribed format and send the letter of appointment of his Election Agent to the Returning Officer alongwith his and his Agent's photograph at least four days before the date of poll/counting of votes, i.e. 8th January, 2014, so that it can be duly approved and signed by the Returning Officer/Assistant Returning Officer and returned to the Candidate/Election Agent in time.
5. The Returning Officer will use his discretion in issuing Postal Ballot Paper to National Capital Region based members in very exceptional cases, where they cannot come to Centre for casting their votes in person due reasons such as illness, old age, non-availability of the member in Delhi on the date of poll on account of his traveling plan. The request received before 27th December, 2013 only will be entertained.
6. If a member, who had reported non-receipt of Postal Ballot Paper or whose Postal Ballot Paper had been received undelivered, happens to be in Delhi on the date of poll, i.e., 12th January, 2014, he may be allowed to vote in person but as a TENDERED VOTE. In case his Postal Ballot Paper is also received, it will be rejected.
7. Web Camera and screen may be installed in the Counting Hall on the 12th January, 2014 so as to make the ballot paper and marking on it visible to the persons present in the counting premises.
8. Display of programmes sponsored by India Islamic Cultural Centre and candidates for IICC Elections, 2013-14 on LED TV monitor and Notice Board placed in the IICC's premises may be discontinued with immediate effect and till counting is over. However,

the Sample Ballot Paper, Profiles of candidates (sent with the Postal Ballot Papers) and the Calendar of Events of IICC may be displaced on LED TV monitor and Notice Board placed in the IICC's premises.

The persons attending the meeting of 12th December, 2013 with the Returning Officer were also informed about the following strange cases of Postal Ballot Papers that came to the notice of the Returning Officer during the last election held during 2008-09:-

- a) A member requested through e-mail for fresh Postal Ballot Paper on the grounds that he had not received the Postal Ballot Paper sent to him. On checking our records, it was found that his Postal Ballot Paper has already been received in the Election Office. On being contacted on phone, he denied having any such e-mail.
- b) A member requested through e-mail for fresh Postal Ballot Paper on the grounds that he had not received the Postal Ballot Paper sent to him. On checking our records, it was found that the member had died two year ago.
- c) A member requested through e-mail for fresh Postal Ballot Paper on the grounds that he had not received the Postal Ballot Paper sent to him. A fresh Postal Ballot Paper was sent to him. Later the Postal Ballot Paper sent to him earlier has been received in Election Office. The second one has not been received so far.
- d) A member requested through e-mail for fresh Postal Ballot Paper on the grounds that he had not received the Postal Ballot Paper sent to him and authorized another member to collect the fresh Postal Ballot Paper. The envelope containing the fresh Postal Ballot Paper was received in Election Office next day. Later a phone call was received from the member, who had collected the envelope that the said envelope might be returned to him, as he had sent the same without marking the ballot paper.

In view of above, the Returning Officer conveyed his decision that complaints received through e-mails regarding non-receiving of the Postal Ballot Paper and request for sending another Postal Ballot Paper shall not be entertained by him. He however, informed that written complaints/requests bearing the signatures of the applicant, received through courier/post/FAX or received as attachment of the scanned request received with the e-mail shall be scrutinized and entertained.

The Returning Officer further informed that where a fresh Postal Ballot Paper has been sent to the elector on his request/information that either he has not received the Postal Ballot Paper sent to him earlier or he has misplaced it, the Ballot Paper sent to him earlier, if received duly marked, shall be rejected and will not be counted.

Consensus was also reached for the following Code of Conduct to be followed by the Candidates:-

Model code for the IICC elections

1. General conduct

- a) No candidate shall indulge in any activity which may create misunderstanding, mutual hatred or cause tension among the members of the IICC.
- b) Criticism of other candidates, if absolutely necessary, shall be confined to their policies and programmes and their past records and work. Candidates shall refrain from criticism of private life of a contesting candidate and criticism on unverified allegations or on distortions shall be scrupulously avoided.
- c) Premises of the IICC shall not be used as a forum for election propaganda.
- d) All candidates shall scrupulously avoid all undesirable practices to solicit support.
- e) No IICC member or any other person shall create obstructions to canvassing by the other candidates.
- f) No worker/supporter of any candidate with badges/leaflets or posters of the candidate shall move above within the IICC premises.

2. Canvassing

- i. The candidates shall be free to publicize their policies and programmes for the IICC and they may provide a copy of the same to the RO who will place it on the IICC website for information of its members.
- ii. No Banner poster shall be allowed to be pasted or posted within the radius of 100 meters from the Building of the Centre. Badges etc. will not be permitted within the premises of the Centre.
- iii. Profiles of the candidates in not more than 100 words will be sent with the Postal Ballot Papers. These profiles will be sent by the candidates in soft copy through e-mail on the e-mail address of IICC viz., iiccdelhi29@rediffmail.com and iiccdelhi@gmail.com. The profiles not received before 05.00 p.m. of 13th December, 2013 will not be entertained. There will be no extension repeat no extension time and date.

3. Polling day

All candidates shall -

- a) Cooperate with the election officials (including those designated by the IICC management as election staff) on duty to ensure peaceful and orderly polling with complete freedom to voters without being subjected to any annoyance or obstruction.

- b) Not allow unnecessary crowds to be collected near the polling booths so as to avoid confrontation and tension among workers and sympathizers of the candidates.
- c) Cooperate with election staff in complying with the restrictions to be imposed for conducting an orderly election.
- d) Ensure that no camp is set up by the candidate within the IICC premises.

4. Conduct of incumbent office bearers of the IICC

Candidates occupying key positions in the current governing body shall ensure that no cause is given for any complaint that they have used their official position for the purposes of the election campaign and in particular:

- a) They shall not mix their canvassing with their official work as office bearer of the IICC.
- b) They shall not make use of IICC's official facilities or personnel for any canvassing related activity.
- c) No rooms shall be booked in the India Islamic Cultural Centre for 11th & 12th January, 2014 05.00 p.m.
- d) Use of official stationary and IICC's letter heads for canvassing shall be banned.
- e) No paid advertisements, which may provide an edge to the current incumbents, shall be issued at the cost of the IICC during the election period.
- f) No appointments shall be made by the incumbent office bearers during the election period.
- g) No new programmes shall be started during elections, however, the continuing works shall go on as usual.
- h) Nothing shall be done by the incumbent office bearers that can give an advantage to them over the candidates who don't have an access to the IICC resources.
