

**GOVERNMENT OF PONDICHERRY  
DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY**

**Karaikal,  
20.03.2006.**

**No defacement allowed: Collector**

Karaikal: No public as well as private premises in the District shall be allowed to be defaced by any Political Party / Candidate/ Individual / Workers / supporters etc. Thiru.Sudhir Kumar, District Magistrate / Collector-cum -District Election Officer issued office order to this effect directing all Returning Officers and Assistant Returning officers, Commissioners of Local Bodies in Karaikal to remove any kind of defacement on public as well as private properties. This is in compliance of the instruction of the Chief Electoral Officer, Pondicherry in a meeting at Pondicherry with DEO's on 17-03-2006. The Collector in his order dt:18-03-2006 also directed the Election Department officials to spare one hour daily for checking the defacements in their area and report.

It may be recalled that the Election Commission of India had vide its letter dated 8<sup>th</sup> July 2005 has directed that candidates, individuals, other organization, Political parties are allowed to use party premises, buildings or places open to the public view with the consent of the owner of the property for hoisting party flags / flags showing election symbols subject to Court Orders/Local Laws. However no wall writing, Pasting of posters, Papers, Hoardings, Cutouts,etc on private premises were allowed even with the consent of the owner of the property subject to Govt. rules / local laws. Where as, in the meeting held with Political parties in DEO's Chamber at Karaikal on 16-03-2006, it was decided that the word with the **Consent of the owner and permit No.** should be specifically written on private premises / building allowing posters, banners, wall writing, etc.

However, in the wake of Chief Electoral Officer, Pondicherry's letter dated 13-03-2006 directing DEO's/ R.Os to restrict the permission to be granted by Local Administration Department even with the consent of the owner of private buildings concurrence of DEO has to be obtained. **The owner of the private premises should personally apply to the Commissioners of local bodies with his due authorization / consent letter which shall duly verified by the Commissioners regarding the intimidation, receipt of any pecuniary benefits, etc. and the same are to be forwarded to the DEO, Karaikal for grant of permission.**

The Pondicherry open Places (Prevention of Disfigurement) Act, 2000 defines "**Places Open to the public view**" vide section 2 (b) includes any Private Places, building, monument, statue, post, wall, fence, tree or other thing or contrivance visible to a person being in, or passing along, any public place and Section 3 read with the Sec.4 says No person shall deface any place open to public view.

The Collector has also observed that Political Parties/ Individuals are putting up Poll gratifies/Wall posters etc on **Disputed Properties** which are also illegal, as cases of dispute would be pending in a court of law in such situations. The Collector therefore instructed the concerned parties to remove all such posters, cutouts from disputed properties at their own cost immediately failing which the Administration will remove all such posters at their cost and recovery will be made from the parties, with fine.

**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR**