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Former Governor of three North Eastern States calls on Governor



Governor Mr. Ganga Prasad with Former Governor of three North Eastern States and other dignitaries at Raj Bhawan.

Gangtok, March 30: Former Governor of three North Eastern States of Meghalaya, Manipur and Mizoram, Dr. K.K. Paul, who is also the Chairperson of Pranab Mukherjee Foundation Chair, Sikkim called on the Governor, Mr. Ganga Prasad, at Raj Bhawan,

today. Accompanying him were renowned Bollywood actress, Ms. Shashi Sharma, Dr. Parvej Hayat, IPS ADG BPRD, Mr. Maju Mathew UN Office on Drugs and Crime Regional Head for South Asia and Dr. Jagannath Patnaik, Vice Chancellor ICFAI University

(Sikkim) among others.

It was a courtesy call by Dr. Paul and other dignitaries who are in Sikkim to attend National Conclave on Youth Empowerment and Drug Abuse Prevention for Healthy Living organised by ICFAI University (Sikkim) in collaboration with Pranab Mukherjee Foundation, New Delhi, at Manan Kendra, Gangtok.

In a brief interaction, the dignitaries proposed various youth centric programmes aimed at empowerment and mitigation of drug abuse among youth of North Eastern Region and Sikkim in particular. The Governor assured to place the matter at the appropriate forum and suggested that such initiatives be implemented through institutions of higher learning and governmental organisations.

Commissioning of EVMs and VVPATs completed

Gangtok, April 03: The commissioning of the EVMs and VVPATs was conducted and completed successfully for the Parliamentary Constituency and some of the Assembly Constituencies held at Brihaspati Parsai Senior Secondary School, Ranipool. The commissioning was conducted in the presence of the DEO-cum-RO (East) Mr. Kapil Meena, RO East/ADC Mr. Bharani Kumar, Asst. Returning Officer and Sector Magistrates.

The commissioning was done in consonance with the guidelines of the Election Commission of India.

A team of engineers from BEL (Bharat Electronic Limited) were present to supervise and assist the commissioning process of the EVM and VVPATs.

The Commissioning is being carried out by 12 teams with 1 team for each constituency. The Commissioning of the EVMs and VVPATs for the Assembly

Constituencies have also commenced and is expected to be completed within the next one day, i.e. April 04.

It may also be informed here that the Strong Room at Brihaspati Parsai Senior Secondary School at Ranipool was opened today.

In the presence of the DEO-cum-RO Mr. Kapil Meena and ARO-cum-ADC (East) Mr. Jamyang C. Namgyal, the seals of

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Second randomization of EVMs and VVPATs

Gangtok, April 01: The second randomization of EVMs and VVPATs for all 13 Assembly Constituencies including Sangha and Sikkim Parliamentary Constituency as per the guidelines of Election Commission of India was conducted at the Office of District Election Officer (East) Mr. Kapil Meena today.

The randomization was carried through EMS Software in the presence of General Observers for Assembly Constituencies and Parliamentary Constituencies, District NIC Officials, contesting candidates and representatives of Political

Parties.

District Election Officer-cum-Returning Officer (East) Mr. Kapil Meena said that the purpose of second randomization of EVMs and VVPATs is to allocate EVMs and VVPATs randomly to Polling Stations for Assembly Constituency and Parliamentary Constituency. After the allocation of EVMs and VVPATs for each Polling Station, the final list of CU, BU and VVPATs with details, identified machine numbers allocated to Assembly Constituency and Parliamentary Constituency was handed over to all the Contesting Candidates and Political Parties.

Mr. Kapil Meena also informed that the opening of Strong Room at Biraspati Parsai Senior Secondary School, Ranipool will commence on April 02 which will be followed by commissioning of EVMs and VVPATs in presence of General Observers contesting candidates or their representatives to witness the opening of Strong Room and commissioning process.

The Commissioning process of EVMs and VVPATs belonging to Sikkim Parliamentary Constituency scheduled to held on April 02 to

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Office of the Chief Secretary Government Sikkim

Gangtok

Ref. No. 152/CS/Sikkim/2019

Dated: 08/04/2019

APPEAL

As we are all aware, simultaneous elections to Sikkim Legislative Assembly and Lok Sabha shall be held from 7.00 am - 5.00 pm on 11th April, 2019.

Not only we are proud of our brilliant record of peace and amity but we have excellent track of peaceful elections all over the State, so far.

Keeping this in mind, may I call upon everyone to maintain the tradition of our small and beautiful State? Not only we should exercise our franchise in a free and fearless manner but we should also extend full support to the State Administration.

(Alok K. Shrivastava, IAS)
Chief Secretary

Sikkim to vote on April 11

Gangtok, April 04: As per the instructions of the Election Commission of India this time one of the important themes to be observed during Election is Accessible Elections. Sikkim is going for Polls on April 11, 2019 and to ensure participation of differently-abled Voters in this biggest democratic exercise, the office of the Chief Electoral Officer, Sikkim in co-ordination with Social Justice, Empowerment and Welfare Department, Government of State has taken various steps.

The CEO Office has appointed State Nodal Officer and District Nodal Officers for ensuring that this time the elections are Accessible to all PWD Voters. The Election Commission of India has also appointed two Accessibility Observers to specifically oversee the preparation in the districts with regard to Accessible Elections.

Commissioner - cum - Secretary, Health Care, Human Services and Family Welfare Department, Mr. Vishal Chauhan has been appointed as the Accessibility Observers for East and North District. He may be contacted at 94340-08110 for any complaints/ query with regard to facilities provided to PWD voters for East and North District.

Similarly, Secretary, Cultural Affairs and Heritage Department, Ms. Ambika Pradhan have been appointed as the Accessibility Observer for West and South Districts. She may be contacted at 9733157778 for any complaints/ query with regard to facilities provided to PWD voters for West and South Districts.

In the first round of exercise

the marking of the differently abled voters in the Electoral Roll was done with the help of the Booth Level Officers (BLOs). These voters have been marked as per their Polling Station and on the day of the Poll following facilities will be provided to them:

1. Basic facilities like drinking water, toilets, shed.

2. Transportation for PWD Voters is being made from the office of the District Election Officers on Poll Day. These Voters will be ferried from their residence by a designated vehicle and brought to the polling station. After casting their Vote they will again be dropped to their residence by the same vehicle.

3. In a State like Sikkim, the terrain poses as the major obstacle in making polling stations physically accessible. Hence, to overcome this challenge, this time Volunteers have been appointed to assist the PWD Voters to reach the Polling Stations, especially for locomotors disabled Voters. These Volunteers are enrolled from the Electoral Literacy Clubs that are established in Schools and also from the NSS, NCC, Scouts and Guides.

4. The Polling Stations which are physically accessible are being provided with Wheel chairs for the convenience of such Voters.

5. For the benefit of the Visually Challenged Voters dummy ballot in Braille and voter slip in Braille is being introduced.

6. Pictograms are in circulation and also available in the Voters Facilitation Centres for the

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Pearls of Wisdom

Change your life today. Don't gamble on the future, act now, without delay.

- Simone de Beauvoir

Police Observer (Sikkim) visits various Polling Stations

Namchi, April 05: Police Observer for Sikkim Mr. Naveen Arora visited various polling stations, namely, Deythang Secondary School, Zarong Secondary School, Kewzing Senior Secondary school, under 09 Barfung alongwith Temi Senior Secondary school and Tarku Senior Secondary school under 14 Temi Namphing Assembly Constituencies today.

During his visit, he interacted with the concerned Sector Magistrates, Flying Squad Teams and Booth Level Officers. The observer also looked into the basic necessary

facility available at the Polling Stations for the convenience of the voters. Additionally, he also met the local voters at Temi bazaar and explained how voters play a crucial role in a democratic country.

Thereafter, Mr. Arora inspected Temi Police Station which is the Women Police Station in the South District. Station House Officer Ms. Anupa Gurung informed the observer about the effective police administration, including maintenance of law and order managed by the Temi Police. She also elucidated about the people friendly measures taken by the police

department in ensuring a peaceful election in the locality. Moreover, the Observer also offered his valuable suggestions in strengthening and better functioning of this Women Police Station as well as briefed regarding the overall security required for the ensuing election. He also detailed about the deployment of security man power available under the Police Station along with stationing of Jawans from SSB and IRB in different polling stations for a smooth, free and fair election in the region. Besides, the Police Observer also thoroughly checked the licences of the deposited arms.

Commissioning of EVMs and VVPATs

Namchi, April 04: The Commissioning of the Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPATs) to be used for the parliamentary constituency for the ensuing General Elections, 2019 which commenced from April 03 concluded at the Auditorium Hall of Namchi Senior Secondary School, today. The commissioning process was done in the presence of Returning Officer (South) Mr. Ragul K., Assistant Returning Officer Mr. Satyen K. Pradhan, Sector Magistrates, candidates and election agents.

On April 03, the commissioning of EVMs and VVPATs was done for Assembly segments of parliamentary constituencies namely 09 Barfung, 10 Poklok-Kamrang, 13 Namthang-Rateypani and 14 Temi-Namphing.

Similarly, the commissioning of EVMs and VVPATs was arranged for 11 Namchi-Singhithang, 12 Melli, 15 Rangang-Yangang and 16 Tumin-Lingi Assembly segments.

It maybe also mentioned that a total number of 24 Bharat Electronic Limited (BEL) engineers from Bengaluru oversaw the commissioning and uploaded the symbols in the VVPATs. After the commissioning, the EVMs and VVPATs were sealed and stored in the respective Strong Rooms in the presence of General Observer for Parliamentary Constituency South/West) Mr. Pankaj Agarwal (IAS) and agents of contesting candidates. The machines are stored under 24x7 CCTV surveillance and are guarded by armed security personnel.

Similarly, the North District conducted commissioning of Electronic Voting Machine (EVMs) and Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPATs) for Sikkim Parliamentary Constituency

and Assembly Constituency under the guidance of District Election Officer-cum-Returning Officer (North), Mr. Raj Yadav.

It is pertinent to mention here that the commissioning of EVMs and VVPATs for Sikkim Parliamentary Constituency was done on April 02 in the presence of General Observer-1, Sikkim Parliamentary Constituency, Mr. Amaya Abhyankar and General Observer (North), Dr. Pratibha Singh, and authorized Political Agents of different parties. On April 03 commissioning of EVM for Assembly Constituency was carried out. On both the days a team of engineers from Bharat Electronic Limited (BEL) were present to supervise and assist the EVMs/VVPATs commissioning process.

The entire process of commissioning of EVMs/VVPATs was held at new Conference Hall of the District Administrative Center (DAC), Mangan. On the other side, whole process of EVM commissioning was videographed by the IPR Team under CCTV surveillance.

The EVM/VVPAT commissioning hall is guarded 24x7 by Police Personnel and all the commissioning process were done as per the guidelines of Election Commission of India (ECI).

On April 02, the Commissioning of the Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPATs) to be used for the ensuing General Elections, 2019 commenced from April 01 at the Auditorium Hall of Namchi Senior Secondary School. The commissioning process was done in the presence of Returning Officer (South) Mr. Ragul K.; Assistant Returning Officer Mr. Satyen K. Pradhan; Sector Magistrates; candidates and Election Agents.

On April 01, the commissioning of EVMs and VVPATs for Assembly

Constituencies namely, 11-Namchi Singhithang, 12-Melli, 14- Temi-Namphing, 15-Rangang- Yangang was prepared.

The commissioning of EVMs and VVPATs for constituencies, namely, 09 Barfung, 10- Poklok Kamrang, 13- Namthang Rateypani and 16- Tumin Lingi was arranged.

It maybe also mentioned that a total number of 24 Bharat Electronic Limited (BEL) engineers from Bengaluru oversaw the commissioning. They also uploaded the symbols in the VVPATs. After the preparation, the EVMs and VVPATs were stored in the respective Strong Rooms in the presence of General Observer to Assembly Constituencies, Mr. Shrish Chandra Verma and agents of contesting candidates.

In Gyalshing, the Second Physical Randomization of EVMs and VVPATs along with the commissioning of EVMs and VVPATs for the Assembly segments of Parliamentary Constituency was done at the Control Room Setup at the Girls Senior Secondary School, Kyongsa on April 02. The Physical Randomization and Commissioning was done in the presence of DC-Cum-RO (West), Mr. Karma R. Bonpo; General Observer (West) Mr. Faisal Aftab; State Police Observer Mr. Naveen Arora; SP (West), Mr. Tenzing L. Lepcha; ADC (West), Mr. Karma L. Lepcha; SDM (HQ), Mr. Tushar G. Nihare; SDM (Gyalshing), Mr. Gilbert Lepcha and other officials.

The Commissioning of EVMs and VVPATs machines along with Reserve EVMs and VVPATs for the four Assembly Segments of Assembly Constituencies (01 – Yoksam Tashiding; 02 – Yangthang; 03 - Maneybong Dentam and 04 - Gyalshing Barnyak) were successfully completed in the presence of the Political representatives.

Street play on voter awareness

Mangan, April 05: M/S Diksha Audio Vision, Tibet Road, Gangtok performed Street play on voter awareness at North District Zilla Bhawan, Mangan today. The play was performed to generate awareness on election process like Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) and Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) machine, low vote cast, low female voter turn up, Person with Disability (PwD) voters and their facilities etc. among public at large.

The skit was performed by the renowned artist, Mr. Timothy Rai supported by other eight artists. The title of Skit was

“Shano Bhul Thulo Nokshan” (little mistake big lost). According to ADC (Dev) Mangan -cum-Nodal Officer, Systematic Voters’ Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP), Election Department, North District, Shri K R Limboo, street play successfully conveyed the message of skit to the public at large.

The programme had the presence of BLO (Mangan Bazaar), Representatives of Election Department (Mangan), Mr. Hemant Khatiwara, US RMDD-cum- Assistant officer, SVEEP.

General Observer (North) assesses preparedness

Mangan, April 04: General Observer (North), Dr. Pratibha Singh, in view to assess the preparedness of Polling Station of the district visited four Polling Stations of sector-5 and sector-7 of the district.

On April 02, Dr. Singh visited two Polling Station of Sector- 5: Lum-Sangdong, i.e. 30/13- Lum Primary School and 30/12- Sangtok ICDS, she found both sector critical, wherein she took serious enquiry of both stations and instructed all necessary arrangements as per the guidelines of ECI to Sector Magistrate, Mr. Dupchen Bhutia.

On April 03, she visited two Polling Stations of Sector- 7 viz. 30/1 -Government Secondary School, Tinpong and 30/2- Government Primary School, Pentong (critical)

During her visit, she was accompanied by Sector

Magistrate-7, Mr. Wangyal Sherpa and Liaison Officer to GO, Mr. Tempa Ringzing Bhutia.

She interacted with the Booth Level Officers (BLOs), regarding assured minimum facilities and facilities of Persons with disabilities at Government ICDS Centre, Sangtok.

GO, Dr. Pratibha also inspected the ongoing activities of Static Surveillance Team (SST) at Phedang police post.

She also visited the Rimghim Monastery and took stock of Sangha with the monks of the monastery.

According to the LO, Mr. Bhutia, Dr. Singh found all the Polling Stations in voter’s friendly environment and appreciated the assured minimum facilities being ensured by the Sector Magistrate in their respective Polling Stations.

Police Observer (Sikkim) conducts meeting with all District Police Officers

Namchi, April 04: Police Observer for Sikkim, Mr. Naveen Arora presided over a meeting with all the District Police Officers of the District in the chamber of the SP (South) Mr. Manish Verma, today.

The meeting had the attendance of two Expenditure Observers for South District, Mr. B. G. Krishnan and Mr. Inder Solanki, SP (South) Mr. Manish Verma, ASP (South) Mr. S.D Shanderpa alongside Sector Police Officers, Sub-Sector Police Officers and SHOs.

In the course of the meeting, Police Observer for Sikkim, Mr. Naveen Arora addressed matters and issues pertaining to General election 2019 such as overall security, deployment of all available manpower under SP (South), telephone communication, transport communication and arms and ammunition. Mr. Arora also issued clear directives about law and order to the police force

for ensuring peace during the entire duration of Election process. He called upon the police officers to be well equipped to undertake any challenging circumstances that may arise if any, during the overall process of the General Elections 2019. Moreover, Mr. Arora directed them to be extremely vigilant so as to facilitate peace and security throughout the district during the elections.

Also, Mr. Naveen Arora visited Chisopani Junior High School Polling Station at Jorethang on April 03.

On his arrival, Mr. Arora checked the preparations being made for the forthcoming polls. Additionally, he interacted with various Police Personnel, Sector Magistrates, Flying Squads, Static and Video Surveillance Team and extended his valuable inputs in order to conduct a smooth elections to these officials.

Postal Ballot Facilitation Centre for General Election 2019

Namchi, April 02: As informed by Returning Officer (South) Mr. Ragul K., the Postal Ballot Drop Box Facilitation Centre for the General Election 2019 will be established at the Community hall and the Auditorium Hall of Namchi Girls Senior Secondary

School from April 04 to 08 as per the guidelines of Election Commission of India. He also requested the contesting candidates or their Election Agents to oversee the facilities being extended to them on the afore-mentioned dates.

Commissioning of EVMs and VVPATs commences

Gyalshing, April 04: The Commissioning of EVMs and VVPATs for the Eight Assembly Constituency was commenced at the Control Room Setup at Girls Senior Secondary School, Kyongsa. The Commissioning was done in the presence of DC-Cum-RO (West) Mr. Karma R.

Bonpo; General Observer (West), Mr. Faisal Aftab; ADC West, Mr. Karma L. Lepcha; SDM (HQ), Mr. Tushar G. Nikhare; SDM (Gyalshing), Mr. Gilbert Lepcha and other Officials.

The Commissioning of EVMs and VVPATs machines along with Reserve EVMs and

VVPATs for the four Constituencies (01 – Yoksam Tashiding; 02 – Yangthang; 03 - Maneybong Dentam and 04 - Gyalshing Barnyak) were successfully completed on April 04, 2019 in the presence of the Political representatives.

Expenditure Observer (South) visits various places

Namchi, April 03: Expenditure Observer, Mr. Inder Solanki, for four constituencies, namely, 13 Namthang - Rateypani, 14 Temi-Namphing, 15 Rangang-Yangang and 16 Tumin-Lingi of the South District visited various places, today.

The observer inspected Temi Namphing, Tumin Lingi and Rateypani Assembly Constituencies along with Liaisoning Officer Mr. Rajiv Rai and interacted with various election officers.

Additionally, he also visited a Polling Station located

at No 16/18, Patuk Makha and interacted with Sector Magistrates, Static Surveillance Teams, Video Surveillance teams, Video viewing teams, Police Personnels and briefed them about the respective roles and responsibilities. He also enquired on the basic minimum facilities available at the Polling Station and also assessed the election preparedness in various places.

Expenditure Observer, Mr. Inder Solanki also visited Polling Station at Bikmat Secondary School under Namthang Rateypani Assembly

Constituency on April 02. The Observer on his visit enquired about the various amenities available in the Polling Station. He was accompanied by Sector Magistrate and various other election Officials.

It maybe mentioned here that Mr. Inder Solanki is in charge of four Assembly Constituencies namely 13 Namthang - Rateypani, 14 Temi-Namphing, 15 Rangang-Yangang and 16 Tumin-Lingi of the south district.

Police Observer (Sikkim) chairs meeting with Expenditure and Accounting teams

Namchi, April 04: Police Observer for Sikkim, Mr. Naveen Arora chaired a meeting with Expenditure and Accounting teams, Control Room and Complaints Monitoring Team, District Media Certification and Monitoring Committee (MCMC) at the auditorium hall of Namchi Senior Secondary School today. Present during the meeting were Returning Officer (RO) South Mr. Ragul. K., Assistant Returning Officers (AROs) South Mr. Satyen Kr. Pradhan and SDM (HQ) Mr. Hemant Rai along with other election officials.

Addressing the meeting, the Police Observer informed the expenditure and accounting teams to supervise and monitor the expenditure incurred by their candidates and their respective political parties. While, meeting with the officials of Control Room and Complaints Monitoring Team the observer emphasized that it is imperative for them to maintain a register detailing the complaints

filed by the contesting candidate and the representatives of political parties. He also added that the officials should be equipped and well-versed with ECI guidelines in handling the various kinds of complaints.

Later in the day, Police Observer, Mr. Naveen Arora convened a meeting with the MCMC team wherein he restated the purpose of the committee in terms of media monitoring and media certification for overseeing advertisements and paid news. He also spoke about overall coordination between the district committee, intermediaries and social media platforms and ensure timely and efficient tracking of paid news in the district. He also offered suggestions to the committee regarding the responsibilities for certification of advertisements, monitoring of news in print and electronic media and keeping records of all election-related news of candidates in the fray.

Moreover, the observer articulated that the election officials need to be vigil in order to conduct a free, fair, transparent and inclusive election in the district.

The observer inspected the strong room at Namchi Senior Secondary School. He also visited two polling stations in New Senior Secondary School, three polling stations in Namchi Senior Secondary School and two polling stations in Namchi Primary School under 11 Namchi-Singhithang constituency. Thereafter, Mr. Arora also checked the polling station at Bakthang Secondary School under 10 Poklok-Kamrang constituency which is also identified as a critical polling station.

It maybe mentioned that the police observer interacted with the local voters of Damthang and enquired regarding the various issues relating to the upcoming general elections.

General Observer-1 holds meeting

Mangan, April 02: General Observer-1, Sikkim Parliamentary Constituency, Mr. Amaya Abhyankar in the presence of General Observer (North), Dr. Pratibha Singh and SP(North), Mr. Kunzang Dorjee Shangderpa held a meeting with Nodal Officers of North District, Assistant Expenditure Observers (AEOs), Accounting Team, Video Viewing Team (VVT), Video Surveillance Team (VST), Flying Squad Team (FST), Media Certification and Monitoring Committee (MCMC) and the officials of Control Room at the Conference Hill of District Administrative Center (North), today.

Mr. Abhyankar directed to all extended election teams to closely monitor unusual or doubtful activities especially while the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) is enforced. He also exhorted them to coordinate with their counterparts and

facilitate for the smooth conduct of Election. Further, he instructed to the FST, VST to remain more vigilant during 48 hours prior to poll day and urged officials to discharge their duties effectively to ensure successful, free and fair election.

Talking on critical Polling Stations, he urged to the field functionaries who are engaged in their respective stations to remain more vigilant against any unusual events related to the election. Booth Level Officers (BLOs) should ensure the proper distribution of voter's slips for inclusive vote cast, he added.

General Observer, Dr. Pratibha Singh sought coordination from the nodal officers with regard to carrying out complete election process in a transparent and responsive manner. She appreciated the work done by SST till the date and suggested them to continue in same spirit until the last day of

election.

She also informed about establishment of Voters Facilities Center and availability of volunteers for Person with Disabilities (PwD) around Polling Station for inclusive vote cast.

In order to conduct peace and fair election, she appealed to all extended teams and Nodal Officers of the district to work in close coordination.

Mr. Abhyankar also visited the Electronic Voter Machine (EVM) Commissioning hall along with Dr. Singh, wherein commissioning of EVM for Parliamentary Constituency took place under the guidance of DEO-cum-RO, Mr. Raj Yadav.

Mr. Abhyankar along with Dr. Singh visited District Control Room and took stock of election preparedness, thereafter, he inspected the Strong Room meanwhile, he expressed his satisfaction over election preparedness of the district.

Expenditure Observer (North) conducts second inspection of Election Expenditure

Mangan, April 04: Expenditure Observer (North), Mr. Ravi Patel carried out second inspection of the Election Expenditure with all the Contesting Candidates/ Agents and Expenditure Monitoring Team in the presence of District Election Officer (DEO) cum Returning Officer (North), Mr. Raj Yadav, Nodal Officer, Expenditure and Monitoring Team (North), Mr. Karma Loday Bhutia, Assistant Expenditure Observers, Mr. Md. Tarique, AEO, 30-Dzongu, Mr. Rajanikant Prasad, AEO, 31-Lachen Mangan, Mr. Surendra Ram, AEO, 29-Kabi Lungchok at the chamber of District Magistrate (North).

During the inspection, Expenditure Observer, Mr. Patel

inspected/tally the register maintenance of day to day account of Election Expenditure by Contesting Candidates with shadow observation register for maintenance of day to day account of Contesting Candidates which is maintained by the Accounting Team.

Expenditure Observer, Mr. Patel found all accounting maintenance satisfactory and appreciated the work done by Expenditure and Monitoring Team.

Further, he advised to the Candidates/Agents that they must keep up-to-dated Bank Account and Expenditure Register at the time of reconciliation of accounts with Expenditure Team.

Training for Presiding and Polling Officers

Namchi, April 04: The third round of training for Presiding and Polling Officers for South District for the General Election 2019 commenced simultaneously at Namchi Community Hall and Auditorium Hall of Namchi Girls Senior Secondary School, today. It maybe mentioned that this training will continue till April 08. Also present were RO (South) Mr. Ragul K., Resource Persons Mr. Bimal C. Rai and Mr. Jigme Bhutia.

Addressing the gathering, RO spoke about the roles and responsibilities that the polling and the presiding officers should follow as laid down by the Election Commission of India. Additionally, the RO also spelt the importance of submitting various report by these officials during different phases of polls. He also informed about the functioning of Electronic Voting

Machine (EVMs) and Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPATs). In addition the RO explained about the importance of mock poll and the vital task shouldered by the presiding and the polling officials in conducting this poll.

The master trainers for the day were Mr. Bimal C. Rai and Mr. Jigme Bhutia wherein they elucidated about the various aspects that the presiding and polling officers should follow. Additionally, the trainers were also briefed about the 'Poll Star' Application which is an innovative and versatile platform for quick and error-free collection of polling statics from the presiding officers in polling booths and for visual presentation of the acquired data for online monitoring and analysis.

Last round of training to Presiding Officers and Polling officers

Mangan, April 04: Three day long last round of training to the Presiding Officers and Polling officers in connection with their duty on polling day and a day prior to poll day was conducted at the Conference Hall of Zilla Bhawan (North). National level Trainer cum SDM (Kabi), Mr. Mahesh Sharma imparted the training.

The training programme will conclude on April 06 and shall be carried out in two shifts i.e. Morning and Evening shift. As informed by the Master trainer, Mr. Sharma, there is 11 groups in each shift which includes 6 members of Polling team viz. one Presiding Officer and 5 Polling Officers in each group.

Mr. Sharma explained about the roles and responsibilities of the Presiding Officers and Polling Officers as assigned to them for Poll day through power point presentation. By any circumstances if Presiding Officer remains absent on poll day, Polling Officer-1 will take charge with full responsibility, he informed.

He said that the Mock Poll of EVM and VVPAT to be done at the Polling Station before the

casting of Vote. After the training, a hands on training on Mock Poll to all trainees was conducted.

Similarly, the third round of training to the Presiding officers was held at the Conference Hall of Zilla Bhawan, North on March 30. Altogether 68 numbers of Presiding Officers underwent the training.

DEO/RO, Mr. Yadav explained about the roles and responsibilities of the Presiding Officers and Polling Officers through power point presentation. He stated that the Presiding Officer must ensure that the polling team should work in tandem with the guidelines of Election Commission of India (ECI) as to orient an error free election process.

Talking on the mock poll certification during poll day he asked to the Polling team to conduct mock poll at 6 AM, so that the mock poll would be done at stipulated time. He also informed that the casting of vote will start at 7 AM and stop at 5 PM.

Further, RO explained in detail about filing of different forms related to poll day and sealing of EVM.

General Observer (South/West) convenes meeting

Namchi, March 31: General Observer for Parliamentary Constituency (South/West), Transport Commissioner Haryana, Mr. Pankaj Agarwal convened a meeting of all the sector magistrates and nodal officers at the chamber of DC (South) Mr. Ragul K. today. The aim of the meeting was to discuss the various issues regarding the smooth conduct of the upcoming General Elections, 2019.

Addressing the meeting, the General Observer took detailed stock of the preparedness relating to elections in the South District. The Observer emphasized on the importance of the transport

required for people with disability voters, he also discussed the route map with the concerned officials regarding the transportation of the Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs). Regarding the IT Cell, Mr. Agarwal directed the NIC, Department to impart ample awareness on cVIGIL, Suvidha application along with generating sufficient amount of awareness on the voter's helpline of the district. He also asked the concerned officials to submit report assigned to them and also enquired on any violation of Model Code of Conduct, Media Certification and Monitoring Committee submission of Postal ballots,

randomization of EVMs and on many more election related matters. Additionally, the Observer also directed the officials to carry out with diligence the various election related work so as to ensure that the elections free, fair, transparent and inclusive.

Returning Officer Mr. Ragul K gave a brief update of election preparedness in the South District including the 10 women and 30 critical Polling Stations apart from various other election related plans and procedures. In addition, the RO also informed the Observer about the security measures undertaken to guard these places.

Training of Contesting Candidates on Expenditure and MCC

Gyalshing, March 29: A training of Contesting Candidates on Expenditure and MCC was conducted at the Conference Hall of Zilla Panchayat Hall, today. The meeting was chaired by DC-cum-RO (West), Mr. Karma R. Bonpo along with General Observer (West), Mr. Faisal Aftab; Expenditure Observers, Mr. Anil Kumar Bharadwaj and Mr. Alok Malviya; SP (West), Mr. Tenzing L. Lepcha; ADC (West) Mr. Karma L. Lepcha and SDM (HQ), Mr. Tushar G. Nikhare.

During the meeting, representatives of all the political parties were informed about various aspects of election process including the Model Code of Conduct (MCC).

The General Observer, in his address, to the trainees he instructed them keep the

expenditure up to date and make sure that the candidate do not exceed their election expenses as per the norms of ECI. For the easement of Accounting Team, he assured them of giving all possible assistance to them so as there will be no errors.

Mr. Karma R. Bonpo expressed his views about the training stating it to be the most important exercise for proper and error free election process, which he feels that it can be achieved through extensively adhering the ECI guidelines. Further, he instructed all to follow MCC Guidelines and not to violate them under any circumstances. He even informed about all mandatory arrangements which has been made for the smooth, free and fair elections.

SP (West) asked all the political parties to be fully

aware of the guidelines of MCC as well as Handbook provided to them. He suggested that the political parties need to obtain any election related permissions prior to refrain from any last minute hassles. He also informed about all the rates of various election related materials and services which is fixed by the commission and is mandatory to be followed. While addressing the Account Team, he told them to be well acquainted with VSTs (Video Surveillance Team) and to work in co-operation.

SDM (HQ) informed about the First Level help from the respective AEO of their designated station.

CPAO, Mr. K B Subba also instructed on the various filling of forms and proper guidelines on working ethics and encouraged to clear their doubts via telecommunication.

Training on Commissioning of EVM and VVPAT

Mangan, April 01: In view of General Election 2019, District Election Officer-cum-Returning Office (North), Mr. Raj Yadav conducted the training on Commissioning of Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) and Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) at new Conference Hall of District Administrative Centre (Mangan), today. The training programme had the presence of General Observer (North), Dr. Pratibha Singh; SP(North), Mr. Kunzang Dorjee Bhutia and

Authorized Engineers of Bharat Electronic Limited, Bangalore.

A day long training programme was organized for the Sector Magistrates on how to conduct the EVM's commissioning process. On the training session, DEO-cum-RO, Mr. Yadav gave necessary suggestions to the officials about measures to be taken at the time of conducting EVM's commissioning process.

He asked the Sector Magistrates to take necessary precautionary steps during the

process of linking of Control Unit, Ballot Unit and VVPATs and while displaying the list of voters after checking it thoroughly. Further, DEO/RO informed all necessary information related to commissioning of EVM/VVPAT.

The commissioning of EVM for Parliamentary Constituency and Assembly Constituency will take place on April 02 and 03, respectively.

Symbols allotted to contesting Candidates of South District

Namchi, March 28: The Returning Officer (South), Mr. Ragul K., in the presence of General Observer, Mr. Shrish Chandra Verma, allotted symbols to all contesting candidates for the upcoming General Elections 2019 at DAC, Namchi, today.

Symbols for recognized National and State parties were allotted alongside symbols being assigned to other

candidates as per the Elections Symbols order. Additionally, various candidates from recognized and registered unrecognized parties were provided different symbols as under:

Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) - Lotus; Indian National Congress (INC) - Hand; Sikkim Democratic Front (SDF) - Umbrella; Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM) -Table Lamp;

Sikkim Rajya Manch Party (SRMP) - Walking Stick; Sikkim Republican Party (SRP) - Flute; Jai Maha Bharat Party (JMBH)-Apple and Hamro Sikkim Party (HSP) -Whistle.

The RO mentioned that the symbol allotted to the candidates from Jai Maha Bharat Party is an apple as per the choice provided by the candidate.

General Observer assess election preparedness at various places

Mangan: General Observer, Dr. Pratibha Singh for North District, General Election 2019 assessed the election preparedness of the various Polling Stations on March 26.

The General Observer visited eight Polling Stations under sector-8: Mangan-Singhik along with the Sector Magistrate, Mr. James Saring Lepcha. Name of the Polling Stations are 30/16-Power Office, 30/21-Power Office, 31/6- Singhik Sec. School, 31/8-Pakshep School, 31/9- Ringhim Secondary School, 31/10-

Mangan Senior Secondary School, 31/11- Mangan BAC and 31/12- Mangan Nagar Palika.

During her visit, the General Observer enquired about the facilities related to Persons with Disabilities (PwD), basic minimum facilities of the Polling Station. As informed by LO to General Observer, Mr. Tempa Rinzing Bhutia that during her visit, GO found all Polling Stations are well established in a voter's friendly environment.

Sensitization on rights of Persons With Disabilities voters

Gyalshing, March 31: The meeting of all the Booth Level Officers (BLOs) and NSS volunteers for the sensitization on the rights of Persons With Disabilities (PwD) voters and the various facilities that are to be provided in Polling Station was conducted at the Conference Hall of West District Zilla Panchayat, Kyongsha, today.

The meeting was presided over by Returning Officer-cum-District Election Officer, Mr. Karma R. Bonpo.

Addressing the gathering, the Returning Officer, Mr. Karma R. Bonpo, explained the key responsibilities and task of the BLOs during the election period and the polling day. They have been asked to submit the report timely to the control room and follow the instructions of Election Commission of India strictly. He added that all the BLOs must inform the Sector Magistrate immediately in exercise of any unusual activities occurs in the premises of Polling Booth.

The RO also informed that the polling parties must compulsory stay in their respective polling stations.

At the onset, Mr. Tushar Nikhare emphasise on the 100% distribution of photo voters slip before April 05, 2019. In all 8 Assembly Constituencies total 19 Polling Stations are provided with the wheelchairs and vehicles for the comfortability of PwD voters. He directed all BLOs to be present in their respective Polling Stations before reaching the Presiding Officers and assist them for the basic needful.

The Joint Secretary informed the student volunteers about their role in assisting the PWDs on polling day as well as setting up of the facilitation centres. Also Nodal Officer for Model Polling Station, Ms. Bhumika Pradhan informed about various activities planned by District Administration to increase the female voting percentage as well as setting up of all women 6 Polling Stations.

Final round of training Polling Personnel (Women)

Gyalshing, March 30: The final round of training and briefing of polling personnel (Women) for conduct of General Elections was conducted at the Conference Hall, Zilla Bhawan (Gyalshing), today. The meeting was chaired by RO (West), Mr. Karma R. Bonpo; State Nodal Officer (EVMs and VVPATs), Mr. P.W. Lepcha; ADC (West), Mr. Karma L. Lepcha; SDM (HQ), Mr. Tushar G. Nikhare and US (RMDD), Mr. Netra Biswakarma.

The DC (West) briefed the Polling Officers on their respective duties that they need to carry out on the poll day. He urged them to train themselves as a team and to be able to adapt themselves to the sound of the Ballot Units which would prove to be beneficial and would come in handy to

check if the person has voted or not.

Further, he also informed about the Parliamentary and Assembly EVMs and VVPATs should be kept separately. He further even asked them to perform the exercise of mock poll and also to clear the data from the Mock Poll machines after the mock poll is conducted. While discussing on Presiding Diary he urged them be very thorough with it so as that there are no mistakes. He urged them to be systematic and organized so as to avoid errors on the Poll day.

Master trainers for the training were DE (Power), Ms. Karma Sonam Choden Tongden and Senior Welfare Officer, Mr. Santosh Allay.

A total of 58 trainees were present during the Final Round of Training.

SP (South) provides update on security arrangements for upcoming Election

Namchi, March 31: SP (South) Mr. Manish Verma updated regarding the security arrangements for the upcoming General Elections 2019. In view, to conduct free and fair poll in the District, the Police Department has placed top priority on maintenance of law and order. He informed that the district has a total of 160 Polling Stations out of which 30 number has been identified as critical. With regard to this, a highly structured security measures had been arranged so as to ensure the well-being of man and materials engaged in election duty alongside creating a harmonious atmosphere wherein everyone can smoothly exercise their right.

Mr. Verma added that

adequate number of Central Paramilitary Forces, State Police Force have been deployed in all the Polling Stations, including the identified critical Polling Stations in the district. He also updated that till date, no complaint regarding violation of Model Code of Conduct has been registered. Additionally, ample security measures has already been activated at several nakas and that 24x7 vehicle checking, regular night patrolling, monitoring the naka bandi is being done by police officials.

SP alongside ASP (South) Mr. S. D. Sangderpa also initiated flag march at Police Stations, Sub-Division and District level with the aim to generate a sense of security

and confidence building. Till date, two flag march have been conducted, the previous march commenced from Namchi to Majhitar via Nanduguan, Jorethang Bazaar and the recent district level was carried out on March 30 which started off from Bhanjang to Mamring.

Mr. Verma also mentioned that apart from the entire bazaar, the vulnerable hamlets route march has been executed and added that South District Police Department is well prepared to undertake any anti-social activities which may disturb the election process. Moreover, SP Mr. Verma appealed to all the general public of the district to celebrate this biggest festival of democracy in a peaceful manner.

Training of Micro Observers

Namchi, April 02: A daylong training of Micro Observers (MO) for the upcoming General Elections 2019 was conducted at the Conference Hall of South DAC, Namchi, today.

Master Trainer, Mr. Jigme W. Bhutia in his power point presentation, spoke about the responsibilities of Micro Observers in the smooth conduct of polls. He stated that the tasks of MO revolve around reporting deviations in the polling process from the assigned Polling Station to the General Observer. He also added that the MO needs to observe the overall election process of the Polling Booth assigned to him and therefore for performing his duties well, he needs to understand the roles and responsibilities of official machinery of polling booth, Mr. Jigme Bhutia added. He also made them aware that if there is a possibility of any serious problem that arises during the poll day, information should immediately be conveyed by phone to the General Observer.

The Resource Persons for the day also asserted that the MOs have to observe all complaints made to him by the Polling Agents, Election Agents and Electors during the poll and understand the seriousness and nature of the complaints. Likewise, he also informed the MOs about senior citizens, infirm and differently-abled voters. Additionally, he also briefed the MOs regarding

the management outside and inside the polling stations and the duties of the polling team. He stated that those MOs who have been deployed in critical and sensitive polling centers, should have all the information of the allotted booths accordingly.

During the course of the training, the Micro Observers were apprised about EVMS, ballot unit, presiding officer and polling officers of the polling team, voter's slip, ballot account, mock poll and other process. Master Trainer Mr. B.C Rai provided the trainees with demonstration of EVMS and VVPAT followed by a hands-on session.

The General Observer in his address advised the Micro Observers to be vigilant and said that any serious deviation needs to be reported to him promptly. Directions regarding the presence of MOs in their respective Polling Booths throughout the polling day and observing all the processes of the elections as per the guidelines of ECI meticulously were also asserted by the General Observers. He also notified the MOs to be conversant with the laws and rules related to election conduct on the poll day and to ensure successful completion of polls.

In Mangan, under the guidance of the General Observer (North), Dr. Pratibha Singh and District Election officer-cum- Returning Officer

(North), Mr. Raj Yadav, the micro observers of the district were imparted training at the Conference Hall of District Administrative Centre (Mangan) on March 31. Altogether ten micro observers underwent the training.

Master Trainer-cum-SDM, Chungthang, Mr. Subash Ghimirey explained the key responsibilities and task of the micro observers during the training. The micro observers have been made aware of EVM, Ballot Unit, Control Unit, Presiding Officer and Polling Officers of the polling team, voter's slip, mock poll and other processes.

General Observer, Dr. Singh has instructed all the micro observers to discharge the responsibility vested on them seriously. They have been asked to submit timely report, while strictly following the instructions of the Election Commission of India.

The General Observer said that the micro observers have important responsibility in the smooth conduct of the polls. Micro observers should be well conversant with the laws and rules related to election conduct on poll day.

The DEO told the micro observers that they have been deputed in critical/sensitive Polling Stations to observe all the process at the Polling Booths on the polling day from beginning to the end.

held on April 04 to 05.

During the commissioning process contesting candidates or their representatives will be allowed to conduct mock poll on the machines also. The complete process of commissioning will be

videographed and all security measures of 24x7 security, CCTV coverage, fire extinguisher and frisking of all participants. Electronic devices will also be not allowed inside the commissioning halls.

General Observer (North) visits Polling Stations

Mangan, April 01: General Observer (North), Dr. Pratibha Singh visited seven Polling Stations under Sector-3: Kabi to Ramthang on March 31. In this Sector, she found three sensitive and four normal Polling Stations. Dr. Singh assessed the preparedness regarding conduct of election of the following Polling Stations: 29/12- Ramthang Primary School (PINK), 29/13- Phodong Sr. Sec. School (Sensitive), 21/14- Room No. 2 (Sensitive), 29/15- Phensong Sec. School (Sensitive), 29/17- Phamtam Junior High School, 29/18- Block Administrative Center, Kabi and 29/19- Tingda Primary School.

She was accompanied by Sector Magistrate, Mr. Swabhaw Gurung, Liaison Officer (LO) and Mr. Tempa Rinzing Bhutia during her visit. She interacted with the Booth Level Officers (BLOs), Static Surveillance Team (SST)

and Flying Squad Team (FST) at Kabi Out Post (OP) and Tingda. She enquired about the facilities related to Person with Disability (PwD), Assured Minimum Facilities of the Polling Stations. She found all the Polling Station in voter's friendly environment. Similarly, General Observer (North), Dr. Pratibha Singh also visited three Polling Stations under Sector-6: Hee-Gyathang-Passingdong on March 29. In her visit she assessed the preparedness of three polling stations such as 30/3- Sonam Choda Lepcha Memorial Government Secondary School, Lingdong, 30/4- Barfok Primary School and 30/5-Hee-Gyathang Government Senior Secondary School.

She also met with the Static Surveillance team (SST) led by, Mr. Kunga Lachenpa at Sankalang Check Post.

Training for BLOs and volunteers

Namchi, April 01: A daylong Orientation cum Sensitization programme for Booth Level Officers (BLOs) and Volunteers for Persons with Disabilities (PwD) Voters under South District was held at Community Hall, Namchi, today.

Addressing the gathering, SDM (HQ) Mr. Hemant Rai stated that the programme aims to ensure that persons with disabilities can exercise the right to vote by casting their votes through the support of BLOs on the day of the poll. He spelt out the key roles and responsibilities of the BLOs to facilitate all accessible means of voting for PwD voters as per the guidelines of Election Commission of India (ECI). He also issued directives to the BLOs on distribution of Photo Voter's Slip before April 06, 2019, Voter's Assistance Booths and Braille Voter's slip alongside expounding the objective of Inclusive Elections for General Elections 2019.

The Resource Person for the day, Mrs. Rohini Pradhan and Mrs. Tashi Choden explained about the facilities in place for PwD voters, such as pick-up and drop service. Based on the data, arrangements of vehicle with helpers will be made in the polling centers, stated the Resource Persons. Additionally, behavioral etiquettes to be observed by the BLOs and volunteers assisting the PwD voters were also discussed in the programme.

It may be mentioned that there approximately 500 PwD voters in South District for which adequate arrangement has been made for them to have access to their Polling Stations. Likewise, there are a total of 3 model Polling Stations in South District, namely, Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Institute for Handicapped (JNMIH) Boomtar Room No I

and II, Namchi Senior Secondary School I and II and CCCT Chisopani Room No I and II. Similarly, JNMIH Room No I and II have been identified as model Polling Stations for PwD voters in the district.

Also in Mangan, training for Booth Level Officer (BLO) and volunteers on accessible election and Model Polling Stations was conducted at the Conference Hall of North District Zilla Panchayat on March 27.

The training programme had the presence of the State Nodal Officer for Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) and Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT), Mr. P.W. Lepcha; Joint Secretary, Social Justice, Empowerment and Welfare Department cum State Nodal Officer for Accessible Election, Mrs. Rohini Pradhan, Joint Secretary, Office of the Chief Election Officer cum State Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) Nodal Officer, Mrs. Tashi Choden Bhutia, SDM (Kabi) cum Master Trainer, Mahesh Sharma alongside 52 BLOs.

Total of 140 students from different schools of the district have been deputed as volunteers who will help People with Disabilities (PwD) on the upcoming poll day. During the programme, new Voter Identification Card has been dispatched to the respective BLOs and BLOs were also handed over package of T-Shirt and ID card which will be given to each volunteer. In each Polling Station, four numbers of volunteers will be deputed to facilitate the PwD to cast their vote.

During the programme, Mr. P.W. Lepcha explained about the accessible election. Interacting with the students, he made them aware about the roles and responsibilities of the volunteers who will be deputed at different Polling Stations on the poll day.

Contd. from front page

Second randomization...

03 and for 13 Assembly Constituencies including Sangha Constituency will be

Preparedness meet with contesting candidates of South District

Namchi, March 29: A detailed preparedness meeting with the candidates and their election representatives was held at the Conference Hall of DAC, Namchi, today. The meeting was chaired by Returning Officer (South) Mr. Ragul K, in the presence of General Observer Mr. Shrish Chandra Verma alongside various election officials.

Speaking during the meeting, RO (South) informed that all the necessary arrangements and activities for the conduct of General Elections 2019 are being carried out by the District Administration. He informed that all the Polling Parties for conduct of election have been appointed and necessary training has been imparted to the Presiding and Polling Officers. Mr. Ragul K. updated that the Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPATs) to be used during the

upcoming elections are kept in the Strong Room at Government Senior Secondary School Namchi. These machines have been kept according to each Assembly constituency, Assembly segment of Parliamentary constituency including Sangha and for reserve EVMs as well. He brought to notice that 24x7 adequate security measures has been made for the Strong Room where the machines are kept and is guarded by armed forces and fire emergency vehicles is also stationed at the Strong Room premises to avoid any untoward incidents. Additionally, CCTV cameras have been installed at different locations to monitor the movements. The RO emphasized that the second round of randomization will be done on March 30 and commissioning of the machines starts from April 01 onwards.

He also notified the

gathering that according to Section 126 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, prohibits displaying any election matter by mean, of television or similar apparatus, during the period of 48 hours before the hour fixed for conclusion of poll in a constituency and violation of the aforesaid provisions is punishable by law. The RO spelt-out that any form of advertisement carried by the candidates or the political parties should be certified by Media Certification and Monitoring Committee (MCMC) and that they should abide the rules of ECI.

The RO (South) urged the contesting candidates to be familiar with all the instructions and guidelines of ECI to guarantee clarity and also urged one and all to ensure fair, ethical and transparent election process in the South District.

Second randomization of EVMs and VVPATs

Namchi, March 29: The second randomization of polling personnel for South district was held at the Conference Hall at DAC(Namchi), today. Present during the randomization was Returning Officer (South) Mr. Ragul K., General Observer, Mr. Shrish Chandra Verma alongside Assistant Returning Officer Mr. Satyen Kr. Pradhan, SDM (HQ) Mr. Hemant Rai and contesting candidates, representatives of various political parties.

Addressing the gathering, RO(South), Mr. Ragul K. spoke in detail about the second randomization of polling personnels. The process of randomization has been done through a software prepared by NIC, Sikkim. The RO also updated that in this general election South district will have 10 women Polling Stations. It may be mentioned here that a total of 160 polling stations located in the South District out of which 10 polling stations will be handled by women polling teams. These women polling stations are located namely at CCCT, Chisopani Room No II, Nandugoan Senior Secondary School Room No II, Salghari Secondary School Room No II, Assangthang Secondary School Room No II, Namchi Senior Secondary School Room No I and III, Namchi Old Primary School Room No I, Namchi New Secondary School Room No II, JHMIH Boomtar Room No II, Namthang Senior Secondary School Room No I. During the second randomization process, polling teams were formed with one Presiding Officer and five Polling Officers. The Assembly Constituency in which they will be posted on poll day is also done randomly.

Similarly, the second randomization of Electronic

Voting Machines (EVMs) and Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPATs) was held at the Conference Hall of DAC Namchi on March 30. Present during the randomization process were Returning Officer (South) Mr. Ragul K, General Observer Mr. Shrish Chandra Verma, Assistant Returning Officer (ARO) Mr. Satyen Kr. Pradhan alongside contesting candidates, election agents and representatives of various political parties.

The RO informed the attendees about the procedure of randomization and added that EVMs are being allocated according to the eight constituencies falling under South district. He also informed that randomization was carried out by EVM management system developed by Election Commission of India. Similarly, for randomization of Sangha, National Informatics Centre (NIC) has designed the software. The RO elucidated the purpose of randomization of EVMs and VVPATs is to allocate EVMs and VVPATs randomly to 160 Polling Stations for South District. After randomization, the certified final list of EVM with control unit, ballot unit and VVPAT numbers assigned to each polling station's was handed over to all the political parties and candidates who were present today.

A total number of 175 EVMs were allocated to 160 polling stations under 8 Assembly Constituencies including Sangha for South district. EVMs for Assembly segments for parliamentary constituencies was randomized and assigned by the RO (East) for Parliamentary Constituency.

Similarly in Mangan, as per the instruction of

(ECI), the District Election Officer (DEO) cum Returning Officer (North), Mr. Raj Yadav conducted the second randomization of Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) and Voted Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) at the chamber of District Magistrate (North), today. All the process was done in the presence of General Observer (North), Dr. Pratibha Singh and representative of all the Political Parties on March 30.

Entire randomization process was carried out through EVM Management System (EMS) software. All the Control Unit (CU), Ballot Unit (BU) and VVPAT were randomized digitally and have been allocated as Polling Station wise within same Constituency. Remaining CUs, BUs and VVPATs which were not allocated to Polling Station are kept as reserved for the same Constituency.

It is pertinent to mention here that the first randomization was conducted on March 18, 2019 through which CU, BU and VVPAT were allocated Assembly Constituency wise.

A set of second randomization sheet were handed over to the representative of all the Political Parties. RO informed to the representative that the commissioning of EVM will be done on April 02 and 03 at Strong Room, DAC.

Further, the RO has informed that EVM commissioning will be held on April 02 and 03 at new Strong Room at District Administrative Centre, Mangan in the presence of General Observer and all the Political Party representatives. At the same time, he appealed to the Political Parties to send their representatives to witness the process of EVM commissioning.

EVM with VVPAT Unit

Q 1. What is an Electronic Voting machine? In what way its functioning is different from the conventional system of voting?

Ans. Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) is an electronic device for recording votes. An Electronic Voting Machine consists of two Units- a Control Unit and a Balloting Unit -joined by a five-meter cable. The Control Unit is placed with the Presiding Officer or a Polling Officer and the Balloting Unit is placed inside the voting compartment. Instead of issuing a ballot paper, the Polling Officer in-charge of the Control Unit will release a ballot by pressing the Ballot Button on the Control Unit. This will enable the voter to cast his vote by pressing the blue button on the Balloting Unit against the candidate and symbol of his choice.

Q2 When the EVM was first introduced in elections?

Ans. EVMS were first used in 70- Parur Assembly Constituency of Kerala in the year 1982.

Q3. How can EVMs be used in areas where there is no electricity?

Ans. EVMs do not require electricity. EVMs run on an ordinary battery assembled by Bharat Electronics Limited/Electronics Corporation of India Limited.

Q4. What is the maximum number of votes which can be cast in EVMs?

Ans. An EVM being used by ECI can record a maximum of 2,000 votes.

Q5. Who has designed the EVMs?

Ans. The EVMs have been devised and designed by the Technical Experts Committee (TEC) of the Election Commission in collaboration with two Public Sector undertakings Viz., Bharat Electronics Ltd. Bangalore and Electronic Corporation of India Ltd., Hyderabad. The EVMs are manufactured by the above two undertakings.

Q6. What is Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT)?

Ans. Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) is an independent system attached with the Electronic Voting Machines that allows the voters to verify that their votes are cast as intended. When a vote is cast, a slip is printed containing the serial number name and symbol of the candidate and remains exposed through transparent window for 7 seconds. Thereafter, this printed slip automatically gets cut and falls in the sealed drop box of the VVPAT

Q7. Whether VVPAT runs on electricity?

Ans. No VVPAT runs on a power pack Battery.

Q8. Where were VVPATs used for first time in India?

Ans. VVPATs with EVMs were used for first time in a bye-election from 51- Noksen (ST) Assembly Constituency of Nagaland.

Q9. In our country a sizeable section of the population is illiterate. Will it not cause problems for the illiterate voters?

Ans. Voting by EVMs is much simpler compared to the conventional system, where one has to put the voting mark on or near the symbol of the candidate of his choice on the Ballot Paper fold it first vertically and then horizontally and thereafter put it into the ballot box. In EVMs, the voter has to simply press the blue button on Ballot Unit against the candidate and symbol of his choice and the vote is recorded.

Q10. Is it possible to use EVMs for simultaneous elections for Parliament State Legislative Assembly?

Ans. Yes however, during simultaneous elections 2 separate sets of EVMs are required one for the Parliamentary Constituency and the other for the Legislative Assembly Constituency.

Q11. How long does the Control Unit store the result in its memory?

Ans. The Control Unit can store the result in its memory until the data is deleted or cleared.

Q12. Is it possible to vote more than once by pressing the button again and again?

Ans. No. As soon as a particular button on the Balloting Unit is pressed the vote is recorded for that particular candidate and the machine gets locked. Even if one presses that button further or any other button, no further vote will be recorded. This way the EVMs ensure the principle of "one man, one vote". The next vote is enabled only when the Presiding Officer/Polling Officer in-charge of the Control Unit releases the Ballot by pressing the Ballot Button. This is a distinct advantage over the ballot paper system .

Q13. How can a voter be sure that the EVM is working and his vote has been recorded?

Ans. As soon as the voter presses the 'blue button against the candidate and symbol of his choice, the lamp against symbol of that particular candidate glows red and a long beep sound is heard. Thus, there are both audio and visual indications for the voter to be assured that his vote has been recorded correctly. In addition, VVPAT provides an additional visual verification in the form of paper slip to the voter so he can ensure that his vote has been correctly recorded for the candidate of his choice.

Final list of Contesting Candidates

Mangan, March 28: District Election Officer-cum-Returning Officer (North), Mr. Raj K Yadav informed that following the last date of withdrawal of candidature there was no withdrawal from any of the three constituencies of the district.

Therefore, a meeting was conducted with an only Independent candidate, Mr. Phurden Tshering Lepcha of Kabi-Lungchok Constituency to allot symbol. He has been allotted symbol of "Pressure Cooker". After allotment of symbol, list of contesting candidates (Form 7A) has been prepared to print ballot papers with photographs of the candidates.

List of contesting candidates are as follows:

29-Kabi-Lunchok Constituency: Mr. Gyurmik Yauseel Bhutia, Indian National Congress (INC); Mr. Karma Loday Bhutia, Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM); Mr. Ugen Nedup Bhutia, Sikkim Democratic Front (SDF) and Mr. Phurden Tshering Lepcha, Independent

30-Dzongu Constituency: Mr. Penzong Lepcha, Indian National Congress (INC); Ms. Chung Kipu Lepcha, Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM); Mr. Pintso Namgyal Lepcha, Sikkim Democratic Front (SDF) and Mr. Athup Lepcha, Hamro Sikkim Party (HSP).

31-Lachen-Mangan Constituency: Mr. Samdup Lepcha, Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM) and Mr. Tshering Wangdi Lepcha, Sikkim Democratic Front (SDF).

DEO-cum-RO also informed that the ballot paper for Service Voters has also been generated through Software under Electronically Transmitted Postal Ballot System (ETPBS). All nomination papers, Form 26 Affidavit and List of contesting candidates have been uploaded on "Suvidha" portal as per the direction of Election Commission

of India (ECI).

Similarly in Namchi as informed by Returning Officer (South), Mr. Ragul K., Independent candidate from 13 Namthang-Rateypani Constituency, Mr. Bikash Tamang withdrew his candidature on March 27. On the last day of withdrawal of nominations for 8 Assembly Constituencies under South District, it was informed by Returning Officer (South), Mr. Ragul K., that two candidates from 11 Namchi-Singhithang, namely, Mr. Ratna Singh Rai from Sikkim Republican Party (SRP) and an independent candidate, Mr. Nirmal Kumar Pradhan withdrew their nominations.

Hence, the final number of contesting candidates for the upcoming General Elections from South district after final withdrawal is 38. The names of the candidates are as follows:

09 Barfung: Mr. Lobzang Bhutia, Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM); Mr. Tashi Thendup Bhutia, Sikkim Democratic Front (SDF); Mr. Mingma Tshering Sherpa, Sikkim Republican Party (SRP).

10 Poklok-Kamrang: Mr. Pawan Chamling, Sikkim Democratic Front (SDF); Mr. Kharka Bahadur Rai, Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM); Mr. Ishwar Prasad Rai, Indian National Congress (INC); Mr. Birkha Bahadur Rai, Hamro Sikkim Party (HSP); Mr. Yadhu Kumar Rai, Sikkim Republican Party (SRP).

11 Namchi-Singhithang: Mr. Pawan Chamling, Sikkim Democratic Front (SDF); Mr. Ganesh Rai, Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM); Mr. Kharga Bahadur Rai, Sikkim Republican Party (SRP); Mr. Hukum Chandra Rai, Hamro Sikkim Party (HSP) and Mrs. Kamala Rai, Indian National Congress (INC).

12 Melli: Ms. Farwanti Tamang, Sikkim Democratic Front (SDF); Mr. Bal Bir

Tamang, Sikkim Republican Party (SRP); Mr. Tilak Basnett, Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM); Mr. Lal Bahadur Chettri, Hamro Sikkim Party (HSP); Mr. Bholu Chawhan, Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) and Mr. Hari Basnett, Indian National Congress (INC).

13 Namthang-Rateypani: Mr. Birjan Tamang, Sikkim Democratic Front (SDF); Mr. Sanjit Kharel, Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM); Mr. Ganga Ram Sharma, Sikkim Republican Party (SRP); Mr. Madan Tamang, Hamro Sikkim Party (HSP); Ms. Usha Gurung, Jai Maha Bharat Party (JMPP) and Mr. Sancha Man Chettri, Indian National Congress (INC).

14 Temi-Namphing: Mr. Deepak Kumar Bhandari, Indian National Congress (INC); Mr. Garja Man Gurung, Sikkim Democratic Front (SDF); Mr. Bedu Singh Panth, Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM) and Mr. Durga Bahadur Chettri, Hamro Sikkim Party (HSP)

15 Rangang-Yangang: Mr. Tanka Nath Adhikari, Indian National Congress (INC); Mrs. Raj Kumari Thapa, Sikkim Democratic Front (SDF); Mr. Mohan Gurung, Sikkim Republican Party (SRP); Mr. Raj Kumar Basnett, Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM); Ms. Kamala Rai, Hamro Sikkim Party (HSP) and Mr. Rup Narayan Chamling, Sikkim Rajya Manch (SRM).

16 Tumin Lingi: Mr. Ugen T. Gyatso Bhutia, Sikkim Democratic Front (SDF); Mr. Samdup Tshering Bhutia, Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM) and Mr. Bhaichung Bhutia, Hamro Sikkim Party (HSP).

Likewise, in Gyalshing, the Returning Officer (West), Mr. Karma R. Bonpo informed that Mr. Dal Bdr. Karki candidate of 04-Gyalshing-Barmyak withdrew his candidature on March 28.

the PWD App for any specific assistance.

The Indian Constitution under Article 326 has granted the right to vote to all its citizens of sound mind above the age of 18, irrespective of caste, religion, social or economic status. Further, the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 lays down certain measures to be taken by the Government and Public Authorities for empowerment of persons with disabilities. The Act envisages creating a "barrier free" environment so that the persons

with disabilities can participate in society fully and effectively. Barrier does not only mean physical barrier but it also includes communicational, cultural, economic, environmental, institutional, political, social, attitudinal or structural barriers. Section 11 of the Act emphasizes accessibility to voting under heading "Rights and Entitlements".

This Election let us ensure that no voter is left behind!

Meeting with all contesting candidates held

Mangan, March 29: District Election Officer-cum-Returning Officer (North), Mr. Raj Yadav chaired a meeting with all the contesting candidates and representatives of all the political parties of North District at the chamber of District Magistrate (North), today. The meeting had the presence of the General Observer (North), Dr. Pratibha Singh.

During the meeting, representatives of all the political parties were informed about various aspects of election process including the Model Code of Conduct (MCC), Electronic Voting Machine (EVM), Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) awareness, Paid News, Electronic and Social Media or Media Certification and Monitoring Committee (MCMC) and other allied issues related to the election campaigning.

Speaking to the representatives, The General Observer said that since the Model Code of Conduct has come into force, every individual must adhere to the guidelines of MCC. Further, the all Political Parties must ensure that the MCC is not violated in any manner so as to ensure peace and fair conduct of election. Mentioning about the publication and display of the election related posters, banners and pamphlets appealing candidates must have the name of printers and publishers, if found violating the guidelines shall be punished, she informed.

She said that the permission of vehicles for election rally must be obtained from the competent authority and an original copy of permission should be pasted in the front mirror of vehicle as to rule out the use of duplicate permission. The Government properties or civic amenities must not be harmed or damaged during the course of election campaign, she insisted. Talking on worry list and vulnerability mapping she asked the representatives to inform to the concerned authority about any critical situations and raising vulnerability of any constituency or polling station.

The General Observer urged all the political representatives to extend their support for inclusive vote cast and awareness on using EVM and to ensure the proper distribution of voter slips to general public by Booth Level Officers (BLOs).

The DEO-cum-RO, Mr. Raj Yadav, informed that all the political candidates must maintain register for account of expenditure properly. They have been told to duly incur the expenditure of print, electronic and social media on their expenditure account.

RO informed the representatives about Form 26 Affidavit and stated that Form 26 of candidate may be checked on ECI website or DAC notice board. Talking on mock poll certification during poll day he asked to the political agents to reach the

Polling Station at 6 am, so that the mock poll would be done at stipulated time. He also informed that the casting of vote will start at 7 am and stop at 5 pm.

Talking on Election Agent, RO informed that the specimen of the contesting candidates should reach the concerned authority on time so that the Polling Agents could be appointed. The second randomization of EVM/VVPAT for Parliamentary Constituency will be held on April 02 and on April 03 randomization of Assembly Constituencies will be done. In this context, he urged the representatives to ensure attendance of respective parties positively.

During the meeting, SP (North), asked all the Political Parties to adhere to the guidelines of MCC for free and fair election and suggested that the Parties obtain any election related permissions a day prior any event being held.

At the outset, the representatives of the political parties were handed over Identification card of the contesting candidates, Accounts of Monitoring Registers, Handbook of Election, EVM/VVPAT presentation book, MCC Manuel, Phone directory, Notice of Contesting Candidates, Election Agent Form, Rate chart related to election and a copy of CEO's Minutes of the meeting.

In Namchi, a meeting with regards to the expenditure of the contesting candidates was held at the Conference Hall at DAC. The meeting was chaired by Returning Officer (South) Mr. Ragul K, present amongst others were General Observer Mr. Shrish Chandra Verma, Expenditure Observers Mr. B. G. Krishnan and Mr. Inder Solanki.

It may be mentioned here that Mr. B. G. Krishnan will be looking over four assembly constituencies which are 09 Barfung, 10 Poklok-Kamrang, 11 Namchi-Singhithang and 12 Melli constituencies. Similarly, Mr. Inder Solanki will be in charge of four constituencies namely 13 Namthang - Rateypani, 14 Temi-Namphing, 15 Rangang-Yangang and 16 Tumin-Lingi constituencies.

During the course of the meeting, Mr. Sunil informed that the contesting candidates are required to maintain day to day accounts in order for better transparency on the election campaign. He also explained in brief the dos and dont's of election expenditure and informed that the expenditure observers will supervise and monitor the expenses incurred by the contesting candidates along with the various political parties. He also updated that adequate number of flying squads, static surveillance team, video surveillance and viewing team are functional in the field to monitor the expenditure carried by the candidates and the political parties.

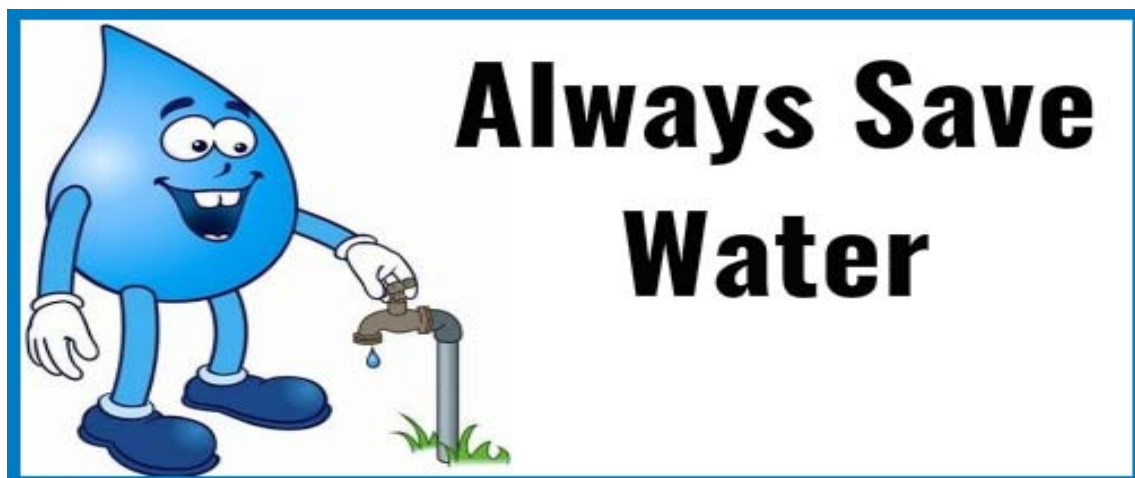
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Sikkim to...

convenience of Speech and Hearing Impaired Voters..

7. PWD Voters and Senior Citizens will be given preference in Voting without having to stand in queue

8. PWD Voters can also call the Toll Free number 1950 regarding any query and if they have not marked themselves, they may also mark themselves through



General Observers meet with Contesting Candidates

Gangtok, March 29: A meeting with the contesting candidates and representatives of the Political Parties with the General Observers of Assembly Constituencies and Parliamentary Constituencies was held at the Conference Hall of District Administration Centre, Sichey, today. The meeting also had the presence of the District Election Officer (East), Mr. Kapil Meena; ADC (East), Mr. Bharani Kumar; Assistant Collector, Mr. Rohan Agawane; SDM (Rangpo) Mr. P.K. Rai and other officials.

During the meeting, the Assistant Collector gave a power point presentation on Monitoring of Election Expenditure provisions like Monitoring of Public meetings and rallies, Monitoring of media-print/ electronic/ Social, Travel expenses of star campaigners, Monitoring of use of vehicles, account mismatch and cash withdrawal from banks etc. SDM (Rangpo) briefed the contesting candidates and representatives of political parties about the guidelines of Model Code of Conduct (MCC) and Do's and Dont's of MCC so as to ensure free and fair elections.

Meanwhile, SP (East) informed the gathering about the arrangements made by East District police for the upcoming General Elections, 2019. He informed that 3 battalion of SSB and 2 battalion of SAP have been deputed in various places of East District. He further stated that the flag marches are being done and check point has been kept so that the contesting candidates can campaign safely and freely. For vehicle rally, foot

rally and Mike permission, the candidates should take permission from the office of DC East 2 to 7 days before the event, informed Mr. Rai. He urged the candidates to cooperate with the police for free and fair election.

The District Election Officer, Mr. Kapil Meena, informed the political parties that there can be no campaigning in the last 48 hours before polling. He also talked about various issues like issuance of permission for public meetings, hoardings and also talked about flag size in election campaign vehicles so that there is no violation of the Model Code of Conduct. He also requested the various Political Parties to abide by the campaigning time so that there is proper maintenance of law and order. Mr. Meena also informed them about the various field teams who are already discharging their duties round the clock and said that any complaints/queries can be put forward to them or they can always contact the District Control Room which is operational 24/7 at 03592-284026. At the end, the DEO informed everyone present about the security arrangements of the Strong Room at Biraspati Parsai Senior Secondary Room, Ranipool and apprised them about the Commissioning of EVMs and VVPATs scheduled on April 02, 2019 and about the dispatch of polling materials which will be done on April 10, 2019.

General Observer for Assembly Constituency (Sr.No 23 to 28), Mr. B. Ram Shastri, spoke about the legal provision

of Model Code of Conduct and Expenditure Monitoring. General Observer for Assembly Constituency (Sr. No 17 to 22), Ms. Mousumi Chattaraj Chaudhuri said that she would be visiting almost all the polling booths under her Constituency to check the smooth functioning of Election process. General Observer for Parliamentary Constituency (East and West), Mr. Pankaj Agarwal, informed about the legal provision of Polling Agents. He asked the candidates to train their Polling Agents properly about the election process. General Observer for Parliamentary Constituency (North and South), Mr. Ameya Abhyankar urged the candidates to refrain from the violation of MCC and cooperate them for the conduct of free and fair election. The Police Observer for the entire State, Mr. Naveen Arora asked the candidates present to maintain peaceful law and order. The Observers told the candidates that they were free to meet them at Circuit House where they are residing and asked the candidates to contact them in their local numbers for any election related queries.

Earlier, ADC (East) Mr. Bharani Kumar placed the welcome address.

Later, the General Observers and Police Observer reviewed the poll preparedness in a meeting with all the Nodal Officers of major election activities of East District. All Nodal Officers briefed the Observers about the activities undertaken till now and those planned till the polling days.

Consultation on State Action Plan on Climate Change

Gangtok, March 27: A Stakeholders Consultation on State Action Plan on Climate Change: Implementation and Revision, was organized at a local hotel, today. This event was supported by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, and was organized by the State Climate Change Cell (under NMSHE), Sikkim State Council of Science & Technology, Department of Science, Technology and Climate Change, Government of Sikkim.

The consultation had the participation of the Chief Secretary, Mr. A.K. Srivastava, as the chief guest of the function. The programme also had the presence of the Additional Chief Secretary to the Governor of Sikkim and Department of Science, Technology and Climate Change along with senior officers from various departments from Government of Sikkim. The participants were also from

Central Government agencies, NGOs, Multilateral and Bilateral organizations.

The Director, Department of Science, Technology and Climate Change, Mr. Dhiren Shrestha, in his address, outlined the context of the programme and gave a brief on the history of SAPCC development in the state. This was followed by a presentation on progress of activities under SDC-UNDP Project on Strengthening State Strategies for Climate Actions by Keshav Koirala, Technical Expert, UNDP – Sikkim. The achievements of the GIZ supported Climate Change Adaptation in the North Eastern Region was highlighted by Senior Advisor, GIZ - India, Dr. Indrani Phukan. Additional Chief Secretary, Dr. J. Jayakumar spoke on Climate Change adaptation and mitigation in the state. He detailed at length the achievements of the State Climate Change Cell in bringing forth the climate change concern

of the state. He further appreciated GIZ coming forth for revision of the State Action Plan for Climate Change.

Chief Secretary Mr. A.K. Srivastava, complimented the department on revising the SAPCC through a consultative process. He further suggested that a bottoms up approach should be used to take inputs from the stakeholders. He also reminisced of the meetings of the first SAPCC where he had taken upon the lead as the then Secretary of the department. He further stressed on the need for active participation of all the stakeholders to bring out a very comprehensive document which would assist the state in bringing climate resilient policies in developmental planning.

The consultation workshop was then addressed by CTRAN the partners for revision SAPCC. The floor was then open for discussion and input taking methodology.

Final round of training to Presiding and Polling Officers I

Gangtok, March 30: The 3rd and final round of training to the Presiding and first Polling Officers was held at Mini Conference Hall Manan Kendra and Conference Hall of Tourism Department.

The Resource Person for the training was SDM(HQ) East, Mr. Sunil Mothey; Mr. P.K. Rai SDM (Rangpo) and DPO (Zilla), Mr. Yadav Sharma. The Presiding Officers and first Polling Officers were briefed

about their roles and responsibilities with respect to the conduct of election. The functioning of the EVM and VVPATs was also explained to them and a hands-on training session was also conducted to familiarize EVM and VVPATs. The significance of the conduct of mock poll was emphasized and all the necessary procedures pertaining to the polling process was demonstrated.

Second randomization of polling parties

Gangtok, March 27: As per the guidelines of Election Commission of India, the second randomization of polling parties for allotting them to the Assembly Constituencies and Assembly Constituencies segments of Parliamentary Constituency as well as to form the polling teams was conducted in the chamber of District Election Officer-cum-Returning Officer (East), Mr. Kapil Meena, at Sichey, today.

The randomization was held in presence of the General Observers, Mr. Pankaj Agarwal, Ms. Mousumi Chattaraj Chaudhuri, Mr. Ameya Abhyankar, Mr. B. Ram Sashtri and Naveen Arora.

Also, the second randomization of EVMs and VVPATs will be held on March 30, 2019 in the presence of candidates of political parties and the Observers at District Election Officer's chamber at 11 am.

Further, a meeting has been scheduled with all contesting candidates on March 29 to brief them on all the importance aspect of MCC and Conduct of General Election. The meeting will have presence and briefing by the General Observers as well as DEO(East). The Identity Cards of candidates shall also be distributed after this important meeting.

**KEEP SIKKIM
CLEAN AND GREEN**

E Mail: collectorwest@gmail.com, Phon No 250888 (O).
250742 (R), 250730 (Fax)

**Government of Sikkim
Office of the District Election Officer
District Administrative Centre, Rabdentse, West Sikkim-737113**

Ref. No. 315/DM(W)

Dated: 27/03/2019

ELECTION URGENT**CORRIGENDUM PRESS RELEASE**

It is notified to all the candidates that inspection of Day to Day accounts of Contesting Candidates of West District, for the Election to the Legislative Assembly of Sikkim, 2019 & General Election, 2019, by the Returning Officer & Expenditure Observer for following Constituencies has been fixed on following dates, time & venues:

Name of Constituencies	Reconciliation Date	Day of week	Reconciliation Phase	Time	Venue
01-Yuksom Tashiding(BL)	30 th March 2019	Saturday	First Round	10	Officer of Expenditure Observer at OBC Hostel, GSSS, Kyongsa
02-Yangthang	6 th April	Saturday	Second Round	am to	
03-Maneybong-Dentam	9 th April	Tuesday	Third & Final Round	4 pm	
04-Gyalshing-Barnyak					

Name of Constituencies	Reconciliation Date	Day of week	Reconciliation Phase	Time	Venue
05-Rinchenpong(BL)	3 rd April 2019	Wednesday	First Round	10	Officer of Expenditure Observer at OBC Conference Hall, SDM Office, Soreng
06-Daramdin(BL)	6 th April	Saturday	Second Round	am to	
07-Soreng Chakung	9 th April	Tuesday	Third & Final Round	4 pm	
08-Zoom Salghari(SC)					

Previous Press release issued via Ref. No. 291/DM/GE/2019(W) dated 20/03/2019 is rescinded with immediate effect.

**DEO com Returning Officer
West Sikkim**

**Government of Sikkim
East District Collectorate
Gangtok Sikkim**

No. 148/DCE

Dated:27.03.2019

2nd RANDOMIZATION OF EVMs & VVPATs

The 2nd randomization of EVMs for East District will be carried out through EMS software on 30-03-2019 at 10.am all the EVMs and VVPATs are presently stocked at Strong Room built at Biraspati Parasi Senior Secondary School located at Marchak, Ranipool.

The total numbers of electronic voting machine after 1st FLC okay. Assigned for east district for simultaneous election of parliamentary constituency and assembly constituency are inclusive of polling and reserves. The details are 639 nos BU, 639 nos CU and 671 nos of VVPATs.

The 2nd randomization will have the presence of Shri Kapil Meena, District electoral Officer/DC, Jamyang C Namgyal, additional District electoral Officer/ADC, who is also the east District Nodal Officer of EVMs, general observers for PC and AC, representatives of political parties, representatives of contesting candidates of respective assembly constituency and also representatives of parliamentary constituency.

The purpose of second randomization of EVMs and VVPATs is to allocate EVMs and VVPATs randomly to polling stations for PC and AC. After the allocation of EVMs and VVPATs for each polling stations, the final list of CU, BU and VVPATs with details, identified, machines numbers allocated to PC & Ac will be handed over to all the contesting candidates and political parties.

The above 2nd randomization is being done as per the guidelines of Election Commission of India

**Kapil Meena(IAS)
District Election Officer/District Collector
East District**

**Office of the Chief Electoral Officer
Balwakhani, Gangtok-Sikkim**

NO.Elec/109/2018-19/688

Dated:05.04.2019

CIRCULAR

A large number of Government Employees and Police Personnel have been engaged in election duty directly or indirectly. All such employees have also been issued Postal Ballots as per the provisions of law. It is therefore, imperative that all such employees connected directly or indirectly with elections are to remain in their respective headquarters till the process of election is over. In any case they cannot leave their respective station till 11th April, 2019, except for purpose -connected with conduct of Elections.

In case of exigency or medical emergency, prior approval of the respective District Election Officer/Chief Electoral Officer must be obtained.

**Sd/-
(Ravindra Telang)IAS,
Chief Electoral Officer.**

**Government of Sikkim
Home Department
Tashiling Secretariat
Gangtok**

No. 42/GEN/HOME

Dated: 26 /03/2019

CIRCULAR

This is brought to the notice of all concerned that Sikkim House, Guwahati shall remain close for a period of 4 days w.e.f 09.04.2019 to 12.04.2019 to enable the Officer and Staff posted at Sikkim House, Guwahati to come to their respective areas to cast their vote.

Therefore, the booking of Sikkim House, Guwahati shall not be available for the above period.

**Sd/-
(Pratap Pradhan) SCS
Secretary to the Government of Sikkim
Home Department (Protocol)**

Chief Secretary bids farewell to Tsegyal Tashi

Gangtok, March 30: A farewell ceremony in honor of Commissioner-cum- Secretary, LRDD, Mr. Tsegyal Tashi was held in the Conference Hall of the New Secretariat at Tashiling, today.

Chief Secretary, Mr. A.K. Shrivastava chaired the ceremony along with Mr. Tsegyal Tashi. The Heads of Departments of various Departments, Senior Officers and Staff of the DOPART were present at the ceremony.

The Chief Secretary, Mr. A.K. Shrivastava reminisced about the moments shared with Mr. Tashi as an amiable colleague, an effective bureaucrat and a dear friend. He highlighted many notable achievements of Mr. Tashi as a bureaucrat and in conclusion, wished him the best for a healthy and hearty retired life.

The Chief Secretary also mentioned that senior officials of the State Government, Secretaries,

Mr. S.B.S. Bhadauria, Mr. S.K. Pradhan and Ms. Deepa Rani Thapa are also retiring on the same date but could not be present at the farewell function due to their respective preoccupations.

Mr. Tsegyal Tashi in his farewell speech, thanked everyone for the many opportunities and experiences of growth and learning during his illustrious service that spanned beyond 35 years.

HODs present at the occasion also took time to recollect their association with Mr. Tashi and lauded him for his perseverance and dynamism.

Mr. Tsegyal Tashi joined the state government as an Under Secretary, Home Department in 1982 and his distinguished service spans commendable posting as Secretary in departments like Home, HRDD, Transport and FRED.

Inspection of accounts of contesting candidates

Gangtok, March 31: The first inspection of accounts of contesting candidates standing for Sikkim Parliamentary Constituency and 13 Assembly Constituencies including Sangha, was held in the presence of Expenditure Observers, today.

During the inspection, accounts of the candidates were reconciled with the shadow expenditure registered maintained by Expenditure Monitoring Team (EMT). A brief training on

monitoring of accounts and maintaining relevant evidence was also given to the contesting candidates and their agents by Expenditure Observers.

In case of mis-match between the entry of candidates and EMT, action as per the prescribed Election Commission of India (ECI) guidelines will be taken.

Moreover, Show Cause Notice was issued to those candidates who failed to produce their accounts for inspection.

SJA organises training for Peshkars and Process Servers

Gangtok, March 31: A training programme for Peshkars and Process Servers of the Subordinate Courts was organized at Sikkim Judicial Academy, Sokeythang, today. District and Sessions Judge (North) Mr. Prajwal Khatiwada was the Resource Person for the

training.

The training programme was on "General Provisions of the Civil Procedure Code, 1908 and the Criminal Procedure Code, 1973 (Practice and Procedure) and Service of Summons".

Final round of training on handling and functioning of EVMs and VVPATs held

Gangtok, April 05: The last and final round of training on various poll related procedures and the handling and functioning of the EVMs and VVPATs was held at the Conference Hall of Manan Kendra, today.

Master trainer, DPO (Zilla) Mr. Yadav Sharma conducted the training which was attended by the General Observer (East) Mr. B. Ram Shastri, General Observer for Parliamentary Constituency Mr. Ameya Abhyankar, CEO (Sikkim) Mr. R. Telang and the DEO-cum-Returning Officer (East) Mr. Kapil Meena.

Mr. Ameya Abhyankar, in his address, stated that it is of great responsibility to be assigned polling duties and hence, they must exercise utmost caution and sensibility during the polling process. He asked all to energetically participate in the training and derive optimum knowledge from the training session to avoid hassles during the poll day.

The CEO (Sikkim) Mr. R. Telang stressed on the participation of all for the success of the festival of democracy and spoke on the importance of conducting mock polls and the importance of cleaning the machine data before the poll starts. Mr. Telang

requested the Sector Magistrates to create a whatsapp group for all officers falling under their jurisdiction for better and increased communication.

DEO (East) Mr. Kapil Meena outlined the various roles and responsibilities designated to each polling official. He stated that the duty of the polling parties is to ensure that the voters are able to cast their votes in secret, free from influence and in a calm atmosphere and added that they are responsible for the conduct of polls. He further stressed that the polling parties must be well conversant with all the details and instructions provided in the Polling Manual of the ECI. He solicited active participation from each of the official towards ensuring a successful polling day.

Mr. Yadav Sharma briefed the Presiding Officers and Polling Officers about their fixed roles and responsibilities with respect to the smooth and successful conduct of the polling process. BEL engineers were on standby to impart hands-on training on the functioning of the EVM and VVPATs to the Polling Officers. The process of the conduct of mock polls with 50 votes per machine on the day of polls was

emphasized and all the necessary procedures pertaining to the polling process were demonstrated.

At the end of the training session, detailed hands on practise session on EVMs and VVPATs was done which had the participation of all polling teams. This was followed by distribution of Identity Cards and Postal Ballots to the polling personnel who were allowed to caste their Postal Ballots in the voting components set up for the purpose.

Similarly, the final round of training to the Presiding and Polling Officers 1,2,3,4 & 5 and Reserve Polling Officers was held at the Conference Hall at Manan Kendra on April 04. A total of 800 Polling Officers participated in the training.

Mr. Yadav Sharma conducted the training which was presided over by the General Observer for East District, Ms. Mousumi Chattaraj Choudhari, and the DEO-cum-Returning Officer (East) Mr. Kapil Meena.

The basic aim of the training session was for the polling officers to be well equipped with the various procedures for conducting polls and also to build a team rapport and familiarize the polling officers with each other.

General Observer (East District) visits different Polling Stations

Gangtok, April 05: The General Observer for East District, Ms. Mousumi Chattaraj Chaudhuri, visited the far flung areas of Thegu, Kupup, Gnathang and Zuluk Polling Stations to review the arrangements of Polling stations, today. It is to be mentioned here that these Polling Stations are the farthest and highest altitude polling stations in the East District. The General Observer took stock of the arrangements put in place for the convenience of the voters on polliEng day and reviewed the facilities being provided at the Polling Stations including water, electricity, toilet, cleanliness, facilities for specially-abled voters, transport facilities etc to different polling stations.

General Observer, Ms. Mousumi Chattaraj Chaudhuri also visited two different Polling Stations of the East district to review the arrangements at Polling Stations.

Observer visited Polling Stations stationed at Pacheykhani Secondary School and Rorathang Secondary School and took stock of the arrangements put in place for the convenience of the voters on polling day (April 11).

During the visit, the General Observer reviewed the facilities being provided at the Polling Stations including water, electricity, toilet, cleanliness, facilities for Person with Disability (PwD), transport facilities etc. to different Polling Stations.

The General Observer urged the officials and field staff (BLOs, FST, VST,) to work in close coordination with each other to ensure smooth conduct of the election process on polling day. The Observer also articulated that the election officials need to be vigil in order to conduct a free, fair, transparent and inclusive election in the district.

Opening of Strong Room for East District held

Gangtok, April 02: The opening of Strong Room for East district took place at Biraspati Parsai Senior Secondary School, Ranipool, today. This was followed by commissioning of EVMs and VVPATs for Sikkim Parliamentary Constituency in presence of contesting candidates and their representatives. A team of qualified BEL engineers were also present to supervise and assist the EVM/VVPATs commissioning process.

The Returning Officer-cum-District Election Officer, Mr. Kapil Meena, briefed about the

commissioning process and gave a detailed overview on the commissioning process. He said that the EVMs and VVPATs belonging to the 13 Assembly Constituencies including Sangha commissioning will be done on April 04 to 05.

The complete process of commissioning of EVMs and VVPATs was videographed and all security measures of 24x7 security, CCTV coverage, fire extinguisher, frisking of all people entering commissioning hall etc. has been made as per the ECI guidelines, the DEO informed.

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Commissioning of...

the Strong Room were opened. As per ECI guidelines, the entire unsealing process was videographed and all the necessary regulations were adhered to.

The Commissioned EVMs and VVPATs have been kept back in the Strong room. After completion of the commissioning process on April 04 all Strong Room will be sealed which will then be opened only on day of dispatch of Polling Parties i.e the morning of the April 10, 2019.

The General Observers for East District, Ms. Mousumi Chattaraj Chaudhuri and Mr. B. Ram Shastri also visited the Strong Room and inspected the Commissioning process. They took stock of the progress from the Returning Officers and expressed satisfaction at the conduct and the arrangements in place.

The General Observers have been touring all over the district making stops at Polling

Stations in the district. They visited Pollings Stations in the areas beyond Singtam, Dikchu and the Observers made rounds of Polling Stations in Duga, Rangpo and the adjoining areas.

The Inspector General for Law and Order also visited the Strong Room and inspected the area and its surroundings.

Meanwhile, Mock Poll was also conducted in the presence of election agents of standing candidates of the East District. The mock poll was conducted on 5% of the total EVMs and VVPATs which were randomly selected by the election agents.

After completion of the commissioning process, EVMs and VVPATs were kept back in Strong Rooms and strong rooms were sealed in the presence of the election agents.

Now the commissioned EVMs and VVPATs meant for Parliamentary Constituency and for all Assembly Constituencies of the east district will be kept sealed inside the Strong Rooms which will only be opened on morning of April 10 for the dispatch of polling parties.

National Level Special Handloom Expo 2018-19

Gangtok, April 02: The Sikkim Handloom and Handicrafts Development Corporation Ltd. (SHHDC) Zero Point, Gangtok is organizing the 15 days National Level Special Handloom Expo 2018-19 at DHH premises, Zero Point. The expo is being organized in collaboration with Directorate of Handicraft and Handloom (DHH), Government of Sikkim under NER Textile Promotion Schemes (NERTPS) which is being sponsored by the office of the Development Commissioner (Handloom), Ministry of Textiles, Government of India.

The expo was inaugurated by Chief Secretary Mr. A. K. Shrivastava. The function also had the presence of Principal Secretary Commerce and Industries, Dr. Thomas Chandy, other officials and staffs of DHH.

The chief guest visited the stalls and interacted with the participants and expressed keen interest and happiness in the various activities being undertaken at the expo. The exhibition cum- Sale of Handloom items saw a large contingent from Manipur, Nagaland, Assam, West Bengal,

Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Ladakh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and local weavers/ SHG's/ Cooperative Societies from different corners of the State.

The National Level Special Handloom Expo 2018-19 is an annual feature of SHHDC calendar and it is proving to be a boon to weavers as their products are sold at large numbers. It also provides a readymade marketing platform for the local weavers, SHGs and PUCs.

The 15 days expo will conclude on April 11, 2019.

Training and orientation of BLOs concludes

Gangtok, April 02: The District Election Officer (East), Mr. Kapil Meena, informed that the training and orientation of BLOs for various works to be done on and before the Poll day was concluded, today. The two day training session focused on

distribution of voter slip, Voter Guides, setting up of Voter Assistance Booth and efficient use of Booth Awareness Groups (BAGs) for assistance to persons with disabilities.

DEO (East) Mr. Kapil Meena further informed that

final briefing of complete polling team members will be conducted on April 04 to 05, 2019 at Manan Kendra Auditorium Hall. Facilitation Centre will be set up there wherein all polling personnel can cast their votes after the training session.

DEO (East) informs about facilitation centre

Gangtok, April 02: A press release from the Office of the District Election Officer-cum-Returning Officer (East), Mr. Kapil Meena informs all contesting candidates for Sikkim State Legislative Assembly Election 2019 and Sikkim Parliamentary Constituency

Election 2019, that the facilitation centre for casting of postal ballots for the General Election 2019 will be set up at Manan Kendra on April 04 to 05, 2019 and April 09 to 11, 2019 at Biraspati Parsai Senior Secondary School, Marchak, Ranipool.

DEO (East), Mr. Kapil Meena has requested all contesting candidates to depute their agents to witness the casting of Postal Ballot in these two designated places on the above mentioned dates.