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Governor attends Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Jayanti



Governor Mr. Ganga Prasad during the 128th Birth Anniversary of Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar at Chintan Bhawan.

Gangtok, April 14: The 128th Birth Anniversary of Bharat Ratna Baba Saheb, Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar was celebrated at State Legislative Assembly followed by a programme at Chintan Bhawan, today. The function was organized by Social Justice Empowerment and Welfare Department in coordination with All Sikkim Scheduled Caste Welfare Association.

The Governor Mr. Ganga Prasad was the chief guest of the function and the Chief Minister Mr. Pawan Chamling was present as the guest of honour. The function was also attended by Chief Secretary, Mr. A.K. Shrivastava, Additional Chief Secretary Raj Bhawan, Dr. K. Jayakumar, Principal Secretary Social Justice, Empowerment and Welfare Department, Mr. K. Srinivaulu, Former Minister, Mr. B.M. Ramudamu, Advisor All Sikkim Scheduled Caste Welfare Association, Heads of Departments, students and other officials of the State Government.

Paying homage to the architect of the Constitution, Governor Mr. Ganga Prasad and at the beginning of the programme garlanded the statue of Dr. Ambedkar and paid floral

tributes at Sikkim Legislative Assembly Complex.

Thereafter, the Governor Mr. Ganga Prasad visited the stalls put up by various colleges at Chintan Bhawan.

The President of All Sikkim Scheduled Caste Welfare Association Mr. Shekhar Sewa presented the welcome address after which Bhimbandhana was performed by the students of Modern School and Tashi Namgyal Senior Secondary School (TNSSS).

The Governor Mr. Ganga Prasad in his speech brought forth the essence of the thoughts and philosophy of Dr. Ambedkar. He dwelt at length on the life and work of Dr. Ambedkar and said that Dr. Ambedkar led a number of social movements to secure human rights to the oppressed and depressed sections of the society and abolish caste discrimination and untouchability. He was also a sociologist and contributed much to the discussions of various social problems. He urged the gathering to follow principles of Dr. Ambedkar in eradication of social inequality, bringing in human equality and liberation of minds to understand human reforms. He also asked the

students to draw inspirations from his ideas and the action and activities should be aimed towards inclusive growth. He also added that Dr. Ambedkar fought for the wellbeing of all in the society and that we must all strive to bring uniformity in the society.

On the occasion of Birth Anniversary of Dr. Ambedkar, All Sikkim Scheduled Caste Welfare Association felicitated Mrs. Neru Sewa for being the 1st woman Minister from Scheduled Caste Community and Nilesh Lamichanay for his achievement in the field of cricket.

During the occasion All Sikkim Scheduled Caste Welfare Association website, www.asscwa.org.com was also launched by the Governor.

On the occasion, Ambedkar Scholarship Students were congratulated by the Governor. Ms. Rajni Khati and Ms. Arnika Khati grand daughters of Lt. Mr. Purna Bahadur Khati donated ₹30,000 and said that they would donate it every year to add to the Ambedkar scholarship.

Thereafter a short film was screened on the life of Dr. Ambedkar by IPR Department.

the purpose and process of scrutiny to the contesting candidates present.

14 polling stations of 13 Assembly Constituencies including Sangha and 1 Parliamentary Constituency were

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Scrutiny of Form 17C/17A and Presiding Officers Diary

Gangtok, April 12: The scrutiny of Form 17 C, 17 A and Presiding Officers diary were done by District Election Officer (East), Mr. Kapil Meena in Brihaspati Parsai Senior Secondary School, Ranipool, today. The scrutiny was done in the presence of General Observer for Parliamentary

Constituency, Mr. Ameya Abhyankar, General Observers for Assembly Constituencies (East), Ms. Mousami Chattraj Chaudhuri and Mr. B. Ram Sashtri, contesting candidates and representatives of political parties.

District Election Officer (East), Mr. Kapil Meena elucidated

RAJ BHAVAN
GANGTOK-737103
(SIKKIM)

GOVERNOR OF SIKKIM

SKM/GOV/2019/206
8th April, 2019

ORDER

In exercise of the powers conferred on me by sub-clause (a) of clause (2) of Article 174 of the Constitution of India, I, Ganga Prasad, Governor of Sikkim, hereby prorogue the Sikkim Legislative Assembly which was summoned to meet on 6th March, 2018 .

(Ganga Prasad)
Governor of Sikkim

Rhenock Constituency records highest voter turnout

Gangtok, April 11 : The voting for the 12 Assembly Constituencies, Parliamentary and Sangha Constituencies was successfully completed in the East District, today.

A total of 75.6% of the voters of East District exercised their universal adult franchise in the 214 Polling Stations of East District.

A total of 129304 voters casted their votes out of the total 171028 registered voters in East District. The overall female voter turnout was recorded at 63475 and the male voter turnout was at 65829.

East District has 12 Assembly Constituencies, one Parliamentary Constituency and one Sangha Constituency. As per the data received, 19 Rhenock Constituency recorded the highest

total voter turnout in the district with 13786 casting their votes at 79.76% of the total registered voters.

Polling parties reached the control room of Brihaspati Parsai Senior Secondary School, Ranipool where the EVMs were handed over and stored at the Strong room in the presence of the Observers.

No report of untoward law and order situation was recorded in the East district. In few polling stations polling went till late evening due to long queues and polling process got over by 8:30 pm. Strong Room sealing was conducted in presence of all General Observers in April 12. The EVMs stored in the strong room will be opened only on the Counting day i.e. May 23, 2019.

Polling personnels dispatched for Polling Stations

Gangtok, April 10 : The DEO-cum-Returning Officer (East), Mr. Kapil Meena, in the presence of the General Observers for East District, Mr. B. Ram Shastri, Mr. Ameya Abhyankar and Ms. Mousumi Chattraj Chaudhuri along with authorised election agents of contesting candidates opened the Strong Room at 8 am, today. The distribution of EVMs to all the polling parties started at 9 am from the Control room of Biraspati Parsai Senior Secondary School where a total of around 1,600 polling personnel including Reserve have been allotted and dispatched for the 214 Polling Stations in the East district. All the polling parties were escorted by the Sector Magistrates and were dispatched by 1:30 pm from the

dispatch centre.

DEO (East) Mr. Kapil Meena reiterated that the official casting of Vote on April 11 and the timings for casting of votes is from 7am till 5pm. The Presiding Officer will conduct mock poll at 5:30 am in their respective Polling Stations which he stressed is a mandatory procedure on Poll day. He also added that the candidates/ their election agents and polling agents are also allowed to be present for the Mock Poll in their respective Polling Stations.

He also informed that the total police strength deployed for the elections all over the state is 3430 police personnel excluding 3 companies of the para-military forces (SSB).

Pearls of Wisdom

Success is not final, failure is not fatal, it is the courage to continue that counts.

- Wiston Churchill

South District goes to exercise their franchise

Namchi, April 12: Voting for the eight Assembly Constituencies and Assembly segments of Parliamentary Constituency and Sangha started on a high note in various polling stations of South District as people turned out in huge numbers to exercise their franchise today. South District has a total number of 11,7564 voters out of which 5,9359 are male and 58205 are female voters.

The first Polling team to arrive in the Control Room after successfully conducting the polling for General Elections 2019 from South District was the team stationed at Salleybong Junior High School Polling Station under 11 Namchi Singhithang Constituency while the last team to arrive at the Control room was the polling team from Tumin Secondary school under 16-Tumin Lingi constituency.

Similarly, the first women polling team to arrive was the team from Namchi Senior Secondary School Room No.2 followed by the polling team of New Secondary School Room No.2 under 11-Namchi Singhithang Constituency.

The polling teams handed the Polled EVMs and VVPATs

along with other polling materials to the concerned officials in the Control room at Namchi Senior Secondary School auditorium.

The Polling Station with the lowest number of voters in Sikkim falls under South District. The polling station is the Community Hall at Pakzer under 10 Poklok- Kamrang Assembly Constituency with 175 voters. Similarly, the Polling Station with the highest number of voters in South district is Kewzing Senior Secondary School at Barfung B under 09 Barfung Assembly Constituency with a total of 1273 voters. A total of 30 number of Polling Station has been identified as critical Polling Stations in the district.

On April 11, young and first time voters turned out in record numbers to vote for Assembly Constituency and Parliamentary Constituency at various polling stations spread across South District.

Many college students who attained 18 years and who had enrolled their names in the voter's list seemed eager to participate in the electoral process in the District, terming their roles extremely important in the democracy.

The first Polling team to arrive in the Control Room after

successfully conducting the polling for General Elections 2019 from South District was the team stationed at Salleybong Junior High School Polling Station under 11 Namchi Singhithang Constituency. The team handed the Polled EVMs and VVPATs along with the polling materials to the concerned officials in the Control room at Namchi Senior Secondary School auditorium.

South District has a total number of 117564 voters out of which 59359 are male and 58205 are female voters, respectively. The Polling Station with the lowest number of voters in Sikkim is Pakzer under 10 Poklok- Kamrang Assembly Constituency with 175 voters. Similarly, the Polling Station with the highest number of voters in South district is Kewzing Senior Secondary School with a total of 1273 voters.

107 aged Ms. Sumitra Rai, from Lower Kamrang, exercised her franchise at Government Secondary School, Kamrang Polling Station under 10 Poklok Kamrang Assembly Constituency.

As a mark of respect and to celebrate the spirit of democracy of the state, the oldest voter of Sikkim was also felicitated by the polling officers.

81.74% vote cast in North District

Mangan, April 11 : North district witnessed a total of 81.74 percent vote cast which registered 81.95 percent of female votes and 81.51 percent of male votes. In total, there are 31,126 registered voters in the district which includes 15,608 male and 15,518 females voters. According to figures of State Election Department, there are 12,604 registered voters in 29-Kabi Lungchuk, 9,253 voters in 30-Djongu and 7,797 voters in 31-Lachen Mangan.

General Election 2019 for Assembly constituency and

Parliamentary constituency was held peacefully at 52 polling stations in the district encompassing three Constituencies i.e. 29-Kabi-Lungchok, 30-Djongu and 31-Lachen-Mangan including Sangha.

Out of 52, there were 13 critical polling stations in the district, 10 of which were deputed with micro observers and rest of the Stations had online webcasting system. 13 Polling Stations were manned by woman.

The farthest polling

station of North district is Gnathang-C Station (29/10, B.O. Forest Office, Kyongnosola) which falls under 29- Kabi Lungchuk constituency.

After accomplishment of polls, the Polling Party, 31/12-Mangan Nagar Panchayat Office arrived to Strong Room of the District Administrative Centre (DAC), Mangan at 6:33 pm. On their arrival, the District Election Officer (DEO) cum Returning Officer (RO), Mr. Raj Yadav offered Khadas to the members of Polling Party.

Pre poll arrangement in South District

Namchi, April 10: The sealed Strong Rooms belonging to eight Assembly Constituencies and Assembly segments of Parliamentary Constituencies and Sangha was opened by the Returning Officer (South) Mr. Ragul K., Assistant Returning Officer Mr. Satyen Pradhan, Sector Magistrates, and election agents of contesting candidates, today.

The commissioned Electronic Voting Machines and Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail was dispatched at Namchi Senior Secondary School auditorium. The whole process was held under the guidance of RO (South) in the presence of General Observer of Assembly Constituency Mr. Shrish Chandra Verma and General Observer of Parliamentary Constituency (South/West) Mr. Pankaj Agarwal.

RO (South) Mr. Ragul K. informed that out of 160 Polling Stations (PS), 30 have been identified as Critical Polling Station in the district. Additionally, the RO stated that adequate security measures with

additional CRPF and IRBn have been deployed in the Polling Stations identified as Critical. Furthermore, Flying Squads, Static Surveillance Teams, Video Surveillance and Video Viewing Teams are functional in the field to monitor the various kinds of activities. The RO also informed that online and offline webcast will be done at the identified Critical Polling Stations.

The Polling Stations located at the district is also equipped with basic minimum facilities like wheel chairs, ramps and other necessary equipments for PwD voters and senior citizens. Additionally, Braille signage for the differently-abled voters to exercise their franchise is also provided in order to promote and fully utilize the concept of inclusivity which has been the main focus of Election Commission of India. The administration on the poll day has made vehicular arrangements to pick and drop PwD voters across the district to ensure that no voters irrespective of their age and physical infirmities are left behind.

Scrutiny of poll completed

Namchi, April 12: The scrutiny of the poll was conducted by Returning Officer (South) Mr. Ragul.K in the presence of General Observer for Parliamentary Constituency (South/West) Mr. Pankaj Agarwal and General Observer for Assembly Constituency, Mr. Shrish Chandra Verma in the Control Room, today.

During the scrutiny, the RO briefed the gathering on the overall voter's turnout in all 8 Assembly Constituencies of South District on the polling day. The scrutiny of all the polling stations in the district were taken up as per the

guidelines issued by the Election Commission of India. The General Observers also scrutinized the documents submitted by the Presiding Officers. After the scrutiny, it was observed that no re-poll is required in any of the polling stations in the 8 Assembly Constituencies under South District.

Subsequently, after the scrutiny of the documents they were sealed in their envelopes in the presence of General Observers, Contesting candidates and the Election Agents of Political Parties and kept in the strong room.

Accessibility Observer visits various Polling Stations

Mangan, April 08: Accessibility Observer (North and East), Sikkim General Election 2019, Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Health Care, Human Services and Family Welfare Department, Mr. Vishal Chauhan visited various Polling Stations of North district to assess the facilities related to Person with Disability voters.

Altogether, Mr. Chauhan visited five Polling Stations of the district which are 29/07-Pangthang Junior High School, 29/19-Tingda Primary School (Model Polling Station), 30/17-Mangshila Panchayat Ghar, 30/15-Tingchim Secondary School, 31/10-Mangan Senior Secondary School (Model Polling Station).

Inspecting the Polling Station and accessible school

toilets, Mr. Chauhan directed Booth Level Officer to facilitate the PwD voters on Poll day with the help of PwD volunteers. He also asked BLO to provide transport facilities to PwD voters on poll day.

He instructed the Sector Magistrates to construct temporary Ramp and arrange Locomotors for PwD voters as per exigency. BLOs must ensure that the Presiding Officers vehicle will be provided to bring PwD voters to cast their vote at their respective Polling Stations, he said.

After completion of inspection, Mr. Chauhan had a meeting with the District Election Officer (North) Mr. Raj Kr. Yadav and discussed on accessible election at length.

Pre poll preparation of North District

Mangan, April 08: North District successfully conducted the dispatchment of Polling materials, Polling Parties, EVM and VVPAT at the Conference Hall of New Strong Room of the District Administrative Centre, today. The whole process was held under the guidance of the District Election Officer Mr. Raj Yadav in the presence of the General Observer, aDr. Pratibha Singh.

The EVMs/VVPATs dispatchment for all 52 Polling Stations of three constituencies i.e. 29-Kabi Lungchuk, 30-Djongu and 31-Lachen Mangan along with 32-Sangha of North District was initiated after opening the Strong Room. The machines were taken to the respective counters from the Strong Room. For the smooth and proper management of EVMs/VVPATs dispatchment process, nine separate counters were set up in the Conference Hall of New DAC building.

As informed by the DIO/NIC, Mr. Sherap Palden Bhutia, out of 52 Polling Stations of the districts, there are 13 Polling Stations which are critical. CCTV surveillance has been installed in all critical Polling Stations out of

which four stations are connected with webcasting. There are 13 Polling Stations in the district which are manned by Woman Presiding and Polling officers.

The farthest Polling Station of North District is 29/10-BO Office, Forest Office, Kyongnosola, Gnathang-C.

Also, DEO (North), Mr. Raj Yadav conducted a meeting with the concerned officials for dispatch/receipt of polling materials and polling parties at the Conference Hall of District Administrative Centre.

DEO informed about the duties and responsibilities of the officials who are engaged with dispatch/receipt of polling materials and parties at New Strong Room on April 10 and 11.

As informed by the DEO, the District Election Office has established separated counter for Order Display, Order Distribution, TA/DA, Numbered Documents, EVM-PC, EVM-AC, Bags, Number/PPT/Torch, Food Coupon, Voting Compartment, EVM Checking, Security Personnel, Food Stall, Vehicle details at newly constructed Block of DAC.

Training session on dispatch of Polling Materials held

Gangtok, April 08: A training session on dispatch of Polling Materials for Assembly and Parliamentary Constituency Elections to the Polling Parties was held at the Strong Room Premises at Brihaspati Parsai Senior Secondary School, Ranipool.

The training session was chaired by the District Election Officer, Mr. Kapil Meena, ADC (East) Bharani Kumar, ADC (Pakyong) Ms. Urvashi Poudal.

The DEO thanked all the officials engaged for a successful commissioning of the EVMs and VVPATS. He informed them that the Strong Room seal will be broken on the April 10 at 7:30 am and thereby the dispatch process will start at 8 am for the convenience of all. He informed that the farthest polling party would be the first ones to be

dispatched with the Polling Materials. He said that the same set of teams would continue with the same-pre assigned constituencies and changes, if any, would be communicated to the teams.

The DEO further enlightened the teams that they would be co-coordinating with the Sector Magistrates, Presiding Officers and the Polling Officers and collecting timely updates as per the guidelines of the ECI and reporting them table wise to the DEO and the AROs. He directed that one member from each team would keep a check on the concerned constituency Strong Room activity to ensure that the correct materials are dispatched along with the correct team.

ADC (Pakyong) Ms. Urvashi Poudal briefed the teams

about their roles and responsibilities leading to an unobstructed routine during the day of dispatch. She stressed on the importance of writing the names of the Polling Stations and constituencies on the bags and ensuring that all the polling materials are compiled in the bag that would be dispatched with the polling parties. She stated that distinguishing marks need to be used by the Presiding Officers for easy identification of the polling materials and also briefed the team on the Presiding Officers checklist for 11 documents that need to be fulfilled by the voters to be able to vote along with specimen signatures of the candidates. She went in to inform that teams need to maintain a list of contact details of the Sector Magistrates and the Presiding and Polling officers.

DEO (East) informs on polling process

Gangtok, April 08: The District Election Officer (East), Mr. Kapil Meena has informed that all preparations have been made for the Poll Day arrangements to carry out polling process on April 11 in the East District.

Except the overlapping areas of 16- Tumin Lingee and 29- Kabi Lungchok Assembly Constituencies (AC), there are 12 Assembly Constituencies in the district having 214 nos. of Polling Stations.

The total number of voters/electors in East District is 1, 90, 135.

Out of 12 ACs of East District, 19 Rhenock is the largest with maximum 27 nos. of Polling Stations with 17,284 numbers of voters.

20 Chujachen AC has 25 polling stations with total voters being 17,645.

The smallest number of Polling Stations are in 25 Upper Tadong which are 8 with a total of 10,315 voters.

The farthest Polling

Stations in the district are Rolep Secondary School at 84 kms and Latuk Primary School at 81 kms distance from the dispatch centre.

Zuluk and Gnathang Polling Stations are close to 78 kms away and are highest, being situated at an altitude of 13,100 and 13,500 feet, respectively.

For 214 Polling Stations, there are approximately 2100 polling personnels including 430 Policemen.

In 21-Gnathang Machong AC, the smallest polling station of the district is situated in Part No.20 Gnathang PS which has only 180 electors.

The total contesting candidates stand at 71 for 13 ACs including Sangha in east District and 11 more candidates contesting in 01- Sikkim Parliamentary Constituency.

There will be 24 Sector Magistrates and 5 Zonal Magistrates for carrying out various assigned duties on the Poll Day including replacement of

defective EVMs/VVPATS. There will be a total of 10 All Women Polling stations called Pink Polling Stations which will be manned by all women polling parties.

A total of 15 Polling Stations in the district are being made into Model Polling Stations which will have all required facilities including a make-over of Polling Stations and accessibility for all PWD voters. There will be voter facilitation Booths which will be set up by BLOs outside all the polling stations to assist the voters.

There will be volunteers at Polling Stations who have been deputed to assist the PWD Voters, old and infirm voters at the polling stations.

There are a total of 43 Polling Stations situated at 24 polling locations which are identified as critical wherein adequate central para-military force has been deployed for the poll day.

Stations and its security measures. Altogether 15 Polling Stations were visited by Mr. Arora, namely, 29/3-Bojo Ghari Government Secondary School, 29/19-Tingda Primary, 29/13-Phudong Senior Secondary School, 32/42- Phudong Senior Secondary School (Sangha), 29/14-Phudong Senior Secondary School, 31/11-Singhik Secondary School, 32/40-Singhik Secondary School (Sangha), 31/5-Tasa Tengay Secondary School, 32/39-Tasa Tengay Secondary School (Sangha), 31/1-Lachen Secondary School, 32/37-Lachen Secondary School (Sangha), 31/2-Dzumsa, 31/12-Mangan Nagar Palika, 30/16-Power Colony and 30/21-Power Colony.

Mr. Naveen Arora visited Phudong Monastery and stopped at various Police Outpost of the district. He also met with the Static Surveillance Team, Flying Squad Team and interacted with them.

On the first day, Mr. Arora met with the District Election Officer-cum-Returning Officer, Mr. Raj Yadav at his chamber. He also visited Strong Room and Control Room of the district.

Campaign on pledge to vote held

Gangtok, April 07: As part of the SVEEP campaign to improve voting percentage, an initiative by Office of District Election Officer (East) started the Signature campaign on 'pledge to vote' which was launched at M.G. Marg, today. Banners have been put up at two places, one near District Control Room and another near Star Hall. The banner exhorts the urban voters to cast their vote by signing on the pledge board.

The event was inaugurated by the DEO-cum-RO (East) Mr. Kapil Meena, ADC (East) Mr. Bharani Kumar, Assistant Collector Mr. Rohan Agawane, officials and attended by general public.

It was informed that Sikkim's voting percentage as in 2014 was 83%, the third highest in India while as Gangtok's voting percentage was recorded at 68%, the lowest in Sikkim.

Mr. Kapil Meena said that

this initiative is to target the urban electors of Gangtok and to try to persuade urban voters to vote on April 11.

In Mangan, District Election Office (North) launched Signature Campaign on 'pledge to vote' at the premises of District Administrative Centre (DAC), on April 08. Banners have been put up on Mobile Van which will round up whole district on April 09 to 10.

The campaign was started by signing on the board by the General Observer (North), Dr. Pratibha Singh, District Election Officer(North), Mr. Raj Yadav and ADC (Development), Mr. K.R. Limboo followed by the officers and staffs of the district.

DEO, Mr. Yadav informed that voting percentage of North District as on 2014 was 80% and this time the Election Office of the district has anticipated 90% of vote cast in the district.

Expenditure Observer visits various Constituencies

Gangtok, April 06: Expenditure Observer for Assembly Constituencies, Mr. Rajesh Kumar visited 17- Khamdong Singtam, 18-West Pendam, 19-Rhenock, 20-Chujachen, 21-Gnathang Machong and 22-Namcheybong in the East District, today. He interacted with the Sector Magistrates, Sector Police Officers, FST, VST, SST and briefed them about their respective roles and responsibilities. He also enquired about the basic minimum facilities available at the Polling Stations.

The Expenditure Observer informed the Expenditure and Accounting Teams to supervise and monitor the expenditure incurred by their candidates and their respective political parties. 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.

Expenditure Observer, Mr. Rajesh Kumar visited portion of Gnathang-Machong Constituency (Zaluk), Chujachen Constituency (Recap) and Namcheybong Constituency (Senti and Assam-Lingzey) on April 09.

During his visit, the Observer also looked into the

basic necessary facility available at the Polling Stations for the convenience of the voters.

The Observer stated for compulsory casting of votes according to strict guidelines by the Election Commission of India and urged the officials to discharge their duties effectively to ensure successful, free and fair election.

Expenditure Observer, Mr. Devesh Gupta visited polling stations at Upper Tadong, Arithang, Shyari, Upper Burtuk and Gangtok Constituency, today.

During his visit, he interacted with the concerned Sector Magistrates, VST, SST, Flying Squad Teams and Booth Level Officers. He looked into the basic necessary facilities available at the polling stations for the convenience of the voters.

On April 10, the Expenditure Observer, Mr. Rajesh Kumar, along with his team made second round visits to 17-Khamdong Singtam Constituency. Further, he directed the VST to take videography so as to work out the expenditure incurred by each candidate contesting.

This visit was undertaken again on account of complaints received from different individuals.

DEO (East) initiates Anganwadi workers in creating awareness under SVEEP

Gangtok, April 06: The Office of the District Election Officer (East) has taken an initiative to involve Anganwadi workers in creating awareness under SVEEP.

Under this, Anganwadi workers will visit every household under their jurisdiction on April 10 and 11.

On the first day, they will take signatures of voters on a pledge sheet thereby, exhorting electors to cast their vote on April 11. They will also inform the Electors about the importance of casting a vote.

These workers again visit same household to verify whether the voters have gone to the Polling

Stations to cast their votes or not. If found that Electors have not gone to cast their votes, they will request and persuade them to do so.

A training of these workers was conducted at the Conference Hall of the SJEWD, (Lumsey) by Assistant Collector Mr. Rohan Agawane in association with the Nodal Officer from SJEWD, Mr. Garjaman Subba.

This training had the active participation of 112 workers in two batches. In addition to this, Voluntary Identity Cards and pledge Sheets were distributed to the participants.

Police observer visits various places

Gangtok, April 06: The Police Observer Mr. Naveen Arora, visited 17-Khamdong Singtam, today. He visited 17/9 a critical polling booth at Dochung Junior High school; booth 17/10 at Namgeything Junior High school and 17/7 at Dipu Dara Primary School. He visited the three polling booths, 17/16, 17/17 and 17/18 at Singtam Community Hall and booths 17/14 and 17/15 in Singtam Senior Secondary School. He inspected the booths 24/9 in Middle Camp Secondary school and 24/11 in Biraspati Parsai Senior Secondary school.

He also thoroughly inspected the Strong Room and the Control Room at Ranipool and discussed in detail the security arrangements of the complex with the concerned SDM and SSB personnel present in site. He also visited the all female Police Station at Ranipool and interacted with the SHO and reviewed the election arrangements, area of jurisdiction, crime situation, law and order, NBW, arrests of criminals, arms licence register, 107/116 & 151 CRPC, traffic duty and liaisoning

with the SSB and IRB personnel.

The Sector Magistrates of Singtam Khamdong and Sang Martam constituencies, the Sector Police officer of Singtam Khamdong constituency along with their FST, SST and VST were present during the inspection of the booths.

In Namchi, the Police Observer for Sikkim Mr. Naveen Arora visited and inspected three Polling Stations in 14/10, 14/14 and 14/15 at Namphing Senior Secondary school under 14- Temi Namphing Constituency. The Sector Magistrate along with three concerned BLOs were present during the inspection. The Observer also took stock of the upcoming election preparedness and explained in detail the various guidelines issued by the Election Commission of India.

Also, Mr. Naveen Arora visited various Polling Stations of North District on April 08 to April 09.

During his two days visit to the district, Mr. Arora inspected numbers of Polling Stations regarding preparedness of Polling

Commissioning of Reserve VVPATs conducted

Gangtok, April 09: The commissioning of the 21 more Reserve VVPATs for Parliamentary Constituency and 13 Assembly Constituencies was conducted at Control Room at Biraspati Parsai Senior Secondary School, Ranipool for recouping reserve stock for machines for the poll day.

The commissioning was conducted under prescribed guidelines of Election Commission of India in presence of ADC East Mr. Jamyang Namgyal, Assistant Returning Officers and other officials.

During the commissioning process, a team of engineers from Bharat Electronic Limited

(BEL) were also present to supervise and assist the commissioning process of the VVPATs.

After completion of the commissioning process the reserve VVPATs were kept back in Strong Rooms which was then sealed. These reserve EVMs/VVPATs are prepared to replace any defective machine on poll day at the Polling Station and will be kept with Sector Magistrates and Zonal Magistrates, who will replace the defective EVMs/VVPATs, if any report on non-functioning is received from any polling station during the poll day (April 11).

The General Observers for East District, Mr. B. Ram Shastri, Mr. Ameya Abhyankar and Ms. Mousumi Chattaraj Chaudhuri were present during the whole commissioning process.

The Strong Room opening on the day of dispatch (10th April) will take place at 7:30 am which will be followed by start of polling parties dispatch from 8 am onwards. The Sector Magistrates will escort all the polling parties to their respective Polling Stations and also will escort them back after the polling is over.

Chief Electoral Officer (Sikkim) holds press conference

Gangtok, April 09: The Chief Electoral Officer (Sikkim), Mr. R. Telang called a press conference at the Conference Hall at District Collectorate premises, Sichey, today.

The press conference was also chaired by the Special CEO (Sikkim), Mr. Prabhakar Verma and Inspector General of Police, Law and Order, Mr. Gyanendra Kumar Verma.

The CEO Mr. R. Telang informed that the purpose of the press conference was to disseminate information on the preparations that have been done in the run up to the polling and the counting day, the various facilities for the voters, the arrangements in place and the various guidelines and issues that need to be highlighted and addressed.

The CEO notified that the total number of voters as on today are 4,32,306 with 2,12,001 female voters. Sumitra Rai, age 105 from 10-Poklok-Kamrang Assembly Constituency is the oldest voter in the state. The state has a total of 567 Polling stations with 120 polling stations being identified as critical. Adequate CAPF forces and micro-observers have been deputed at these critical polling stations which will have webcasting arrangements as well.

The Polling Station with the lowest voter count is Pakjer Primary School under 10-Poklok Kamrang AC with 175 voters and the polling station with the highest vote count is Arithang Junior High School Room No.1 under 26 Arithang AC with 1405 Voters. Kupup Primary School under 21 Gnathang-Machong AC,

situated at an altitude of 13,400 ft is the highest altitude polling station in the state with 288 voters. The CEO enlightened that there are 39 all women polling stations in the state which will be manned by all women polling parties and police forces. Along with this, 28 Model Polling Stations have been set up all over the state. 3600 Polling personnel including reserve polling personnel have been deployed in total. The state has been assigned 7 General Observers, 1 Police Observer, 8 Expenditure Observers and 2 Accessibility Observers for the General Elections.

He further informed that there are a total of 2042 PWD voters in the state who will be assisted by school going volunteers. There are various facilities in place for the PWD Voters like wheel chairs at Polling Stations, ramps wherever possible and free transport facilities to help the PWD voters commute.

The total number of candidates contesting stands at 161 which includes 11 candidates for the Parliamentary Constituency. 11 Counting Halls in 4 locations across the state will ensure smooth and timely completion of the counting process 1185 Ballot Units, 1185 VVPATs and 1185 Control Units will be put to use during the polling day. The CEO further highlighted that more than 42000 mock votes have been cast during SVEEP awareness campaigns throughout the state covering 10% of the total voters of the state. He informed that allocation of all constituency voting

machines, polling stations, polling parties and police teams have been randomised according to ECI Guidelines so as to rule out any fallacies. He informed that one voter guide is also being handed over to each family and voter slips have also been distributed to individual voters.

The CEO stressed that the secrecy of votes is paramount and extended sincere gratitude to all concerned for a swift and smooth election preparation.

The Inspector General of Police-Law and Order, Mr. Gyanendra Kumar Verma informed that the total police strength deployed for the elections all over the state is 4000 police personnel including the para-military forces. He mentioned that the forces are being utilised to the optimum, right from guarding of the Strong Rooms, manning critical polling stations and all women polling stations, conducting area domination drives amongst others. All firearms have been deposited with the police forces except for those that are commissioned to be used by the law and order forces. Mr. Verma informed that 49 Sector Police Officers have been deputed along with 49 Sub Sector Police Officers and unaccounted cash and liquor amounting to ₹18 Lakhs has been seized so far. He stated that prompt action has been taken and perpetrators have been booked. Mr. Verma concluded that all security arrangements all over the state are in its prime thereby ensuring a safe environment for the voters of the state.

India.

Similarly in Mangan, the scrutiny of Form 17A, 17C and Presiding Officer dairy was conducted by the District Election Officer cum Returning Officer, Mr. Raj Yadav with General Observer Dr. Pratibha Singh for all Assembly segments of Sikkim Parliamentary and 29-Kabi Lungchuk, 30-Djongu, 31-Lachen Mangan and 32- Sangha at the new Conference Hall of District Administrative Centre, Mangan.

Returning Officer, Mr. Raj

Yadav, explained to all political parties about the purpose of scrutiny and other rules and regulations to simplify the process of scrutiny as per the request of the political representatives/candidates and direction of General Observer.

Five polling stations have been selected for scrutiny on the basis of prescribed norms. After completion of scrutiny, everything was found in order and there is no recommendation for repoll made by Returning Officer and General Observer.

Second round of training of Micro Observers conducted

Gangtok, April 09: The District Election Officer (East), Mr. Kapil Meena informed that the second round of training of Micro Observers was conducted at the Conference Hall of District Administrative Centre, Sichey, today. The training was conducted by the General Observers, Mr. Ameya Abhyankar, Ms. Mousami Chattaraj Chaudhari and Mr. B. Ram Shashtri.

During the training, the General Observers briefed the participants on the relevant provisions and guidelines for the Micro Observers. They also explained the way in which the Micro Observers' report has to be prepared on the day of poll. The General Observers also clarified the doubts and queries raised by the Micro Observers.

The DEO (East) further informed that 30 Micro Observers have been shortlisted for East District including reserve that would be responsible for

observing 24 polling station locations in the District.

Earlier, the training began with a brief Power Point Presentation on relevant provisions for Micro Observers by Assistant Collector, Mr. Rohan Agawane who also conducted the first round of training.

The training also had the presence of ADC (East), Mr. Bharani Kumar.

Also the third randomization of polling parties for allotting them specific polling stations was done by EMS software in presence of General Observers. The orders were printed and will only be known to the polling parties tomorrow (April 10th) when the reach dispatch centre. Postal ballot felicitation centre was also set up at DAC which will be set at dispatch centre tomorrow for distribution of postal ballots as well as for having a facility for casting of postal ballots.

General Observer visits various Polling Stations

Gangtok, April 06: The General Observer Mr. B. Ram Sashtri visited various Polling Stations at Nandok Senior Secondary School, Rongay Junior High School and Krishi Bhawan, Daragaon in the East District, today.

During his visit, he interacted with the concerned Sector Magistrates, Flying Squad Teams

and Booth Level Officers. The General Observer also looked into the basic necessary facility available at the Polling Stations for the convenience of the voters. He also enquired about the provision for facilities such as drinking water, sanitation and other basic facilities.

Inspection of Accounts of Contesting Candidates

Gangtok, April 06: The District Election Officer (East), Mr. Kapil Meena informed the 2nd Inspection of accounts of contesting candidates standing for Sikkim Parliamentary Constituency and 13 Assembly Constituencies including Sangha was held on April 4 at EDZP Conference Hall.

The inspection was done by the Assistant Expenditure Observers in the presence of Expenditure Observers. Notices have been issued to contesting candidates to furnish their expenditure report within 48 hours of issuance of notice.

The 3rd inspection of Accounts and re-conciliation is scheduled to be conducted on April 08 at EDZP Conference Hall which is required to be attended by the candidates or expenditure agents.

A hands-on training for Presiding and Polling Officers has been arranged at the Conference Hall of the DAC, Sichey till the April 09, 2019 for the benefit of all polling parties and Sector Magistrates.

Further, he informed that postal ballot facilitation centre has been set up at the Conference Hall of the DAC which will be functional till April 09 and on April 10 it will be set up at the Strong Room premises at Brihaspati Senior Secondary School (Ranipool) from 7 am

onwards for receiving of Postal Ballots and also for casting them. The third inspection of accounts of candidates contesting in General Election 2019 was conducted at EDZP Conference Hall in the presence of Expenditure Observers on April 08.

In this inspection, accounts of candidates were reconciled with the records maintained by the AEOs. Notices were issued to candidates who failed to produce their accounts themselves or through their agents.

In Namchi, the third round of inspection of Accounts and reconciliation for the contesting candidates of South District was conducted by Expenditure Observer for Assembly Constituencies, Mr. B. G. Krishnan at DAC Namchi on April 08.

The Expenditure Observer inspected the Accounts Register of four Constituencies under South District, namely, 09 Barfung, 10 Poklok-Kamrang, 11 Namchi-Singhithang and 12 Melli in the presence of Assistant Expenditure Observers (AEOs) and Expenditure Agents of all the candidates of the four constituencies. Mr. B. G. Krishnan thoroughly examined the Shadow Observer Register against the expenditure register for the contesting candidates.

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Scrutiny of...

selected for scrutiny as per the guidelines of Election Commission of India.

During the process of scrutiny, none of the polling station was found to be having major errors or irregularities. Hence, as per Election Commission of India guidelines no case was found fit to recommend for any re-poll etc. Accordingly reports were sent to Election Commission of