



SIKKIM HERALD

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Gangtok (Wednesday) April 10, 2024

Regd. No. WB/SKM/01/2023-2025

Members of NCSSC call on Governor



Gangtok, April 8: Mr Rupak Roy Choudhary, National Coordinator of Sulabh Sanitation Club, which is a part of Sulabh International, along with other members, called on the Governor Mr Lakshman Prasad Acharya at Raj Bhawan, today.

During the meeting, they discussed about the collaboration with the Aklem Foundation in implementing the 'AAGAZ+' project, which aims to strengthen sanitation in eleven schools of Sikkim, with a primary focus on Water, Sanitization, and Hygiene

(WASH) education. They also highlighted the introduction of 'Pink Toilets' in schools, which are female-friendly. Additionally, they mentioned about the deployment of Master Trainers in schools to educate girl children and staff about menstruation hygiene.

The Governor commended late Mr Bindeshwar Pathak, a social reformer, and the Father of Indian Sanitation. Late Mr Pathak, the founder of Sulabh International, was appreciated for his

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Expenditure Observers for Gangtok district conducts co-ordination meeting



Gangtok, April 4: Mr S Sundaresan, Mr J Premanand and Mr Prasoon Kabra, Expenditure Observers for Gangtok district conducted a co-ordination meeting with Income Tax officials representing the IT Nodal Officer and Nodal Officers from State Bank of Sikkim (DLBC), today.

The objective of the meeting was to discuss reporting mechanism of cash withdrawals and large monetary transactions. The meeting also discussed necessary action to be taken based on the analysis of the information.

Home Voting for 85+ years and PWDs

Gangtok, April 8: The Home Voting which begun from April 5 2024 concluded today with high number of voters casting their votes. The Home Voting (postal ballot facility) is a new feature added to Election Commission of India, which allows senior citizens above 85 years of age and Persons with Disabilities (40% benchmark disability) to cast their vote from comfort of their home.

It may be mentioned that the eligible Home Voters from Gangtok district used their voting rights through Home Voting in Assembly Constituencies, Sikkim Parliamentary Constituency (Assembly Segment) and Sangha Assembly Constituency. The number of Home Voters under Gangtok district are as follows:

- 16-Tumen Lingi**
Senior citizens (85+ years of age): 49
Persons with Disability (PwD): 54
- 17-Khamdong-Singtam**
Senior citizens (85+ years of



- age): 29
Persons with Disability (PwD): 29
- 23-Shyari**
Senior citizens (85+ years of age): 26
Persons with Disability (PwD): 19
- 24-Martam-Rumtek**
Senior citizens (85+ years of age): 62
Persons with Disability (PwD): 19

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Final list of contesting candidates for 32-ACs and 1-PC

Gangtok, March 30: Withdrawal of nomination for General Elections 2024 under Gangtok district was conducted at the office of District Election Officer (DEO) Gangtok, today.

Mr Sonam Pintso Bhutia, Independent candidate for 32-Sangha Assembly Constituency under Gangtok district withdrew his candidature at the Office of Mr Tushar G Nikhare, Returning Officer for 32-Sangha Assembly Constituency in the presence of Mr Jitendra Kumar, General Observer for Gangtok district.

The names of the candidates who are contesting from 32-Sangha Assembly Constituency in General Elections 2024 are as follows:

1. Mr Sonam Lama from Sikkim Krantikari Morcha
2. Mr Tshering Lama from Sikkim Democratic Front
3. Mr Tseten Tashi Bhutia from Bharatiya Janata Party
4. Mr Norcho Lepcha from Citizen Action Party- Sikkim.

It may be mentioned that no candidates from other 08 Assembly Constituencies and 01 Sikkim Parliamentary Constituency withdrew their candidature for General Elections 2024.

16-Tumen Lingi AC

1. Mr Samdup Tshering Bhutia from Sikkim Krantikari Morcha
 2. Mr Norzong Lepcha from Sikkim Democratic Front
 3. Mr Pema Gyalpu Bhutia from Citizen Action Party- Sikkim
 4. Mr Samdup Lepcha from Indian National Congress
 5. Mr Passang Gyali Sherpa from Bharatiya Janata Party.
- 17-Khamdong-Singtam AC**
1. Mr Mani Kumar Sharma from Sikkim Democratic Front
 2. Mr Nar Bahadur Dahal from Sikkim Krantikari Morcha
 3. Ms Sumati Chettri from Citizen Action Party- Sikkim
 4. Mr Tanka Nath Adhikari from Indian National Congress
 5. Mr Chetan Sapkota from Bharatiya Janata Party.
- 23-Shyari AC**
1. Mr Kunga Nima Lepcha from Sikkim Krantikari Morcha
 2. Mr Tenzing Norbu from Sikkim Democratic Front
 3. Mr Pempo Dorjee Lepcha

- from Bharatiya Janata Party
 4. Mr Karma Tashi Bhutia from Indian National Congress
 5. Mr Sonam Tshering Lepcha from Citizen Action Party- Sikkim.
- 24-Martam-Rumtek AC**
1. Mr Mechung Bhutia from Sikkim Democratic Front
 2. Mr Sonam Tsh. Venchungpa from Sikkim Krantikari Morcha
 3. Mr Karma Tshering Bhutia from Citizen Action Party- Sikkim
 4. Mr Chewang Dadul Bhutia from Bharatiya Janata Party
 5. Ms Ganga Lepcha from Indian National Congress.
- 25-Upper Tadong AC**
1. Mr GT Dhungel from Sikkim Krantikari Morcha
 2. Dr Chandra Bahadur Chettri from Sikkim Democratic Front
 3. Mr Kailash Chandra

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Pearls of Wisdom

"Happiness is not the absence of problems, it's the ability to deal with them."

- Steve Maraboli

Expenditure Reconciliation Meeting for Gyalshing District

Gyalshing, April 4: The first phase of the expenditure reconciliation meeting for all contesting candidates of the Assembly Constituencies under Gyalshing District was convened at District Administrative Centre Gyalshing, today.

The meeting was presided over by the Expenditure Observer for Gyalshing District, Ms. Amuldeep Kaur IRS, alongside

ADC (Gyalshing)-cum-RO, Ms. Pari Bishnoi accompanied by Assistant Expenditure Observers (AEOs) and their respective accounting teams along with election agents of all contesting candidates from 4 Assembly Constituencies.

The primary objective of the meeting is to monitor the expenses incurred by the candidates in accordance with the

Video Surveillance Team (VST), candidates' self-declarations, and permits issued by competent authorities. The monitoring process also includes tally of accounts with the shadow register maintained by the accounting team of the district.

It may be mentioned that the expenditure reconciliation meetings will be scheduled for April 10 and 16, 2024.

Wheels of Democracy in Namthang Bazaar

Namchi, April 8: The Office of the Chief Electoral Officer, Sikkim in collaboration with Red FM Wheels of Democracy conducted a Road Show at Namthang Bazaar as part of SVEEP (Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation) initiative for the General Elections 2024.

The event had the

presence of Mr Ratan Gurung, BDO Namthang -cum- Assistant Returning Officer along with respective Block Level Offices (BLOs,) Police personnel and public.

The programme features activities like song requests, flash mobs, and spontaneous quiz rounds. The campaign aims to elevate electoral awareness and

engagement across diverse demographics.

The 'Wheels of Democracy' campaign, launched on April 5, 2024 aims to empower citizens with knowledge about their voting rights and responsibilities, fostering a culture of active participation in the democratic process throughout the State.

Election Observers convene meeting with contesting candidates

Gyalshing, March 30: Mr Pankaj Yadav (IAS) General Observer, Ms Amuldeep Kaur (IRS) Expenditure Observers and Ms Bhagyashri Nanatake, (IPS) Police Observer convened a meeting with contesting candidates and their election agents from 4 Assembly Constituencies under Gyalshing District, today.

The meeting aimed to foster transparency, accountability, and adherence to electoral guidelines among candidates contesting in the elections. The Observers emphasised on the importance of ethical campaigning, responsible expenditure, and maintaining law and order throughout the election.

The General Observer focused on ensuring a level playing field for all candidates, monitoring campaign activities, and addressing any concerns related to electoral malpractices or irregularities.

Expenditure Observer

discussed expenditure limits, financial reporting requirements, and the necessity of maintaining accurate records of campaign expenses to ensure compliance with the ECI guidelines.

Meanwhile, Police Observer reiterated the need for candidates to maintain peaceful campaigning environment and cooperate with law enforcement authorities to prevent any incidents of violence or misconduct.

The Returning Officer for two constituencies 01-Yoksam Tashiding and 02-Yangthang ACs Ms Pari Bishnoi delved on the guidelines of the Model Code of Conduct governing the electoral process.

She elaborated on the guidelines of campaigning, expenditure limits, prior permission for rallies and campaigns, size of flags used in two-wheelers and vehicles, SST, FST, VST 24/7 monitoring, illegal expenditure, pre-certification for online advertisement, and

maintaining decorum during public discourse. She stressed upon the need to adhere strictly to the guidelines to uphold the sanctity of democracy.

Mr M Bharani Kumar District Election Officer Gyalshing and Mr J Jayapandiyani SP along with Addl District Collector (Hq) Mr Khemraj Bhattarai, highlighted essential aspects with regard to election.

Candidates were provided with Candidates Identity Card, Compendium of Instructions on Election Expenditure Monitoring, Handbook for Candidates, Notice regarding Penal Provisions in Election Law, format for appointing additional agents on expenditure matters, important contact details of District Officials engaged in Election conduct process, list of Polling Stations, constituency-wise details of notified areas for public meetings and copy of FLC OK EVMs register, etc.

DEO and ROs Soreng District visit various NAKA Points

Soreng, March 29: Ms Yishey D Yongda, DEO-cum-RO accompanied by ROs and AROs visited Naka Points at 8th Mile Budang Junction, Zoom Junction, Kaluk Bazar and Soreng Dara Bazaar, today.

The visiting team interacted with the Static Surveillance Team members and the Executive Magistrates on duty.

They overseen vehicles being checked at strategic arterial

road points. The DEO urged all teams for timely submission of Daily Activity Reports and to continue to exercise strict vigil on movement of illicit goods and suspicious activities in their respective areas.

DEO Mangan conducts meeting

Mangan, March 30: District Election Officer (DEO) Mangan Mr Hem Kumar Chettri, presided over a meeting with candidates and their representatives from three Assembly Constituencies in Mangan District at his office, today.

Mr Uma Kanth Umrao (IAS) General Observer for Mangan District, and Mr Saurabh Raskar (IRS) Central Expenditure Observer were also present, along with Mr Arun Chettri, Returning Officer for 30

Djongu.

The DEO emphasised on the importance of adhering to procedures and guidelines outlined by the Election Commission of India. Any deviation or violation of the Model Code of Conduct may result in disqualification of the candidate, he said.

The General Observer stressed the need for a smooth, fair, and transparent election process. He assured the election officials that the necessary

arrangements would be made to ensure a violence-free election in 2024.

The Expenditure Observer instructed the candidates to maintain an expenditure register and present it three times before the election date.

Additionally, for the second phase of randomisation, the DEO directed the representatives of the candidates to bring an authorisation letter from the candidate.

Expenditure Observer Mangan reviews VVTs

Mangan, April 3: Mr Saurabh Raskar (IRS) Expenditure Observer for Mangan district for General Elections 2024, visited the Video Viewing Teams at the District Control Centre and reviewed their on-going work.

The Expenditure Observer met with the VVTs of three constituencies, namely, 29-Kabi Lungchuk, 30-Djongu and 31-

Lachen-Mangan.

He reviewed the reports maintained by the teams. He asked the team to keep clear communication with the candidates regarding dates and details of the election processes. He expressed his satisfaction at the work being conducted and encouraged all to work diligently.

CEO Office revs-up electoral education with Wheels of Democracy

Mangan, April 5: The Office of the Chief Electoral Officer, Sikkim in collaboration with Red FM launched 'Wheels of Democracy' - a road show as part of SVEEP (Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation) initiative for the General Elections 2024.

The programme features activities like song requests, flash mobs, and spontaneous quiz rounds. Stretching from Kabi to

Mangan Bazaar, the campaign aims to elevate electoral awareness and engagement across diverse demographics.

The event had the presence of Mr KR Limboo, ADC (Dev)-cum-Nodal Officer, SVEEP, alongside BLOs, Teachers, Students of Phodong Senior Secondary School, Police Personnel and staff of RD Department.

General Observer inspects Polling Stations under Gyalshing District

Gyalshing, April 8: General Observer, Mr Pankaj Yadav IAS executed a thorough inspection of several Polling Stations situated within Gyalshing District, today.

The General Observer scrutinised the arrangements and amenities at Government Senior Secondary School, Bermiok, Government Primary School, Pechreck, Government Junior High School, Heepatal and Village

Administrative Centre, Hee GPU, today.

Following a meticulous assessment, he conveyed his contentment with the arrangements in place at the aforementioned Polling Stations. He affirmed their preparedness to efficiently and securely accommodate voters during the electoral process.

Training for Facilitation Centre, PVC and Home Voting Teams

Mangan, April 1: A training for Facilitation Centre, PVC and Home Voting Teams under Mangan District was held at DAC, today.

Mr Hem Kumar Chettri DEO highlighted the need to understand their responsibilities properly in order to ensure free and fair electoral process. He urged the trainees to clear their queries regarding the procedure for postal ballot and home voting.

Mr Palden Lachungpa, District-level Master Trainer-(DLMT) briefed about their roles and responsibilities regarding the preparation and function of Facilitation Centres. Stressing upon the need to ensure secrecy of the voters, he urged that the electors to be well oriented with the procedures. He mentioned about various forms in Postal Ballot such as 13A, 13B, 13C and

13D and presented the procedures for home voting based on the guidelines from the ECI. It was informed that senior citizens aged 85+ and Persons with Disabilities (40% disability) may avail the home voting facility.

The session had the presence of Mr Palden Lachungpa District-level Master Trainer (DLMT), Mr Padam Bdr Gurung ALT-cum-Deputy Director of Agriculture, Mr Ganesh Thapa ALT-cum Welfare Officer, Mr Ugen Tseten Bhutia ALT-cum-Assistant Director Directorate of Fisheries, Mr Harka Bahadur Thapa, Nodal Officer (Postal Ballot) and trainees.

It may be mentioned that the Facilitation Centres will be operational from April 9-14, 2024.

Mangan district organises Walkathon

Mangan, April 02: District Election Officer Mangan Mr Hem Kumar Chettri, flagged off the Walkathon, a significant step towards encouraging electoral participation, organised by the office of DEO Mangan District as a part of the SVEEP (Systematic Voters Education and Electoral Participation) initiative for the General Elections 2024.

The event commenced from Mangan Bus Stand culminating at Pakshep viewpoint. The walkathon had a participation of 36 students representing Mangan Senior Secondary School along with the

officials and staff of various departments of the district.

The DEO highlighted the significance of raising awareness about voter education underlining the pivotal role of every citizen, particularly the youth, in shaping the nation's democratic trajectory.

Following the Walkathon, ADC Dev Mangan-cum-Nodal Officer, SVEEP Mr KR Limboo, extended his appreciation to all participants, volunteers, and supporters, whose contributions were integral to the event's success.

**KEEP SIKKIM
CLEAN AND GREEN**

**Urban Development Department
Government of Sikkim, Gangtok**

No: 738 /UDD/Secy

Dated: 28/03/2024

**Advisory on Preparedness of the State
During Ensuing Monsoon Season**

In continuation of Public Notice No. 728/UDD/Secy dated 15/03/2024, it is to reiterate that the pre monsoon showers are expected anytime now; especially during the months of April-May. The change in the rainfall pattern with high intensity showers coupled with high run off in the urban areas owing to its built form requires uninterrupted flow of the jhoras and drains. It has been observed that the jhoras and drains are often choked by dumping of garbage, household waste, construction and demolition waste etc. posing serious threat to the environment. In order to address these issues, an advisory is being issued to the public for keeping all jhoras, drains and other premises clean ensuring uninterrupted flow of runoff from the rains. This would help us to avoid any disaster endangering life and property and also gear us up for monsoon preparedness. Public in general are also appealed to keep their surroundings clean and drains free from obstructions and any violation may be brought to the notice of concerned ULB or the Urban Development Department immediately.

Further, the public in general are requested to make use of **Weather Warning App** development by Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) for availing weather forecast and warning services :-

- i) Mausam App
- ii) Damini App
- iii) Meghdoot Agro App
- iv) Public Observation App

**M.T. Sherpa, IAS
Secretary
Urban Development Department
(File No: T(2075) TP/E/2020-Part I)
(364, i)**

**Government of Sikkim
Urban Development Department
Gangtok**

No: 737/UDD/Secy.

Dated: 26/03/2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for the information of general public that earth excavation for construction works in all notified areas under the Sikkim Allotment of House Sites and Construction of Building (Regulation and Control) Act, 1985 and the Sikkim Municipalities Act, 2007 shall not be allowed with effect from **1st May till 31st August, 2024** due to the onset of rainy season. Further, no Construction Orders shall be issued during this period.

Anyone found carrying out construction in contravention of the above direction shall be dealt with as per provisions of the Sikkim Allotment of House Sites and Construction of Building (Regulation and Control) Act, 1985 and its subsequent amendments as well as any other relevant provisions of laws in operation. Any person found violating this notice shall also be solely responsible for loss of life and property as a result of such excavation/ construction.

However, any projects under the Central Government and the State Government, which require relaxation from prohibition shall approach the Urban Development Department with proper justifications and No Objection Certificate from the District Collector, Chairperson, District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) along with an undertaking to abide by all precautionary measures for obtaining necessary permission based on the merit of individual case.

The concerned section of the Department and all Urban Local Bodies are hereby directed to monitor and ensure strict compliance of the direction.

**M.T. Sherpa, IAS
Secretary
Urban Development Department
(File No: T(1689) UDD/TP/E/2020)
(365, i)**

**High Court of Sikkim
Gangtok**

No. 01/HCS

Date:02.04.2024

NOTICE

The written examinations for the 04(four) vacant posts of Civil Judge- cum-Judicial Magistrate(Grade-III) in the cadre of Sikkim Judicial Service(2022) notified vide Employment Notice dated 08.09.2022 will be held in the premises of the Sikkim Judicial Academy, Sokeythang, Gangtok as per the following schedule:-

Date	Subject	Time
23.04.2024 (Tuesday)	Paper- I (Procedural Law)	10:00 a.m. to 01:00 p.m.
24.04.2024 (Wednesday)	Paper - II (Substantive Law)	10:00 a.m. to 01:00p.m.

Candidates shall collect their Admit Card from the office of the Registrar (Judicial Service), High Court of Sikkim, during office hours from 03.04.2024 onwards.

Candidates desirous of receiving their Admit Card through e-mail shall send their request in the following e-mail addresses:

1. he-sik@nic.in
2. cpc-sik@nic.in

Candidates must reach the examination center at least half an hour prior to the scheduled time.

By Order,

**Sd/-
REGISTRAR
(367)**

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to**

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**GOVERNMENT SIKKIM GAZETTE
EXTRAORDINARY
PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY**

Gangtok

Wednesday 3rd April, 2024

No.159

**ELECTION DEPARTMENT
GANGTOK**

No. 35/2024/Elec

Dated: 02 April, 2024

Notification No. 576/EXIT/2024/SDR-Vol.I Dated: 28th March, 2024 of the Election Commission of India, Nirvachan Sadan, New Delhi is hereby re-published for general information

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001

Dated: 28th March, 2024

Chaitra 8, 1946

NOTIFICATION

Whereas, the schedule for the **General Elections to Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Odisha & Sikkim, 2024 and bye- election to 25 Assembly Constituencies in 12 States (as per annexure-1) as announced by the Election Commission vide Press Notes No. ECI/PN/23/2024 and No. ECI/PN/24/2024 both dated 16th March 2024 read with Press Note No. ECIPN/32/2024 dated 27th March, 2024.**

2. Whereas, Section 126A of The Representation of the People Act, 1951 (in short R.P. Act, 1951) specifies that "(1) No person shall conduct any exit poll and publish or publicise by means of the print or electronic media or disseminate in any other manner, whatsoever, the result of any exit poll during such period, as may be notified by the Election Commission in this regard.

(2). For the purposes of sub-section (1), the Election Commission shall, by a general order, notify the date and time having due regard to the following, namely:-

(a) in case of a general election, the period may commence from the beginning of the hours fixed for poll on the first day of poll and continue till half an hour after closing of the poll in all the States and Union territories;

(b) In case of a bye-election or a number of bye-elections held together, the period may commence from the beginning of the hours fixed for poll on and from the first day of poll and continue till half an hour after closing of the poll;

Provided that in case of a number of bye-elections held together on different days, the period may commence from the beginning of the hours fixed for poll on the first day of poll and continue till half an hour after closing of the last poll.

(3). Any person who contravenes the provisions of this section shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years or with fine or with both."

3. Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers under sub-Section (1) of Section 126A of the R.P. Act, 1951, the Election Commission, having regard to the provisions of sub-Section (2) of the said Section, hereby notifies the period between **7.00A.M on 19th April, 2024 (Friday) and 6.30 PM on 1st June, 2024 (Saturday)** as the period during which conducting and publishing or publicizing exit poll by means of the print or electronic media or dissemination in any other manner whatsoever, the result of any exit poll in connection with the **current General Elections to Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Odisha & Sikkim, 2024 and bye-election to 25 Assembly Constituencies in 12 States (as per annexure-1) to be held simultaneously with the general election to Lok sabha**, shall be prohibited

4. It is further clarified that under Section 126(1)(b) of the R.P. Act, 1951, displaying any election matter including results of any opinion poll or any other poll survey, in any electronic media, would be prohibited during the period of 48 hours ending with the hours fixed for the conclusion of the poll in connection with the aforesaid general elections and bye-elections.

By order,

**S.B. Joshi
PR. Secretary**

**D. Aanadan, IAS
Chief Electoral Officer, Sikkim**

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to follow.

Members of...

humanitarian deeds, which have brought about significant positive change in society. The Governor also emphasised that individuals like late Mr Pathak live on through the legacies they left behind. He noted that Sikkim is a place where the noble work initiated by such individuals can be continued, serving as a role model for others

Furthermore, the Governor highlighted the past challenges faced by girl students due to unhygienic sanitation facilities. He acknowledged the importance of menstruation education in empowering girl children and ensuring their continued education. The Governor also mentioned that Raj Bhawan would extend all possible support for endeavors aimed at social welfare and development.

Symbols allotted for 01- PC and ACs in Gangtok District

Gangtok, March 30: Symbols were allotted to all the candidates of 01-Sikkim Parliamentary Constituency by Mr Tushar G Nihare Returning Officer for 01-Sikkim Parliamentary Constituency in the presence of Mr Jitendra Kumar (IAS) General Observer for Gangtok district, today.

The names of the candidates for **01-Sikkim Parliamentary Constituency** and their symbols are:

1. Mr Dinesh Chandra Nepal, Bharatiya Janata Party, Lotus
2. Mr Gopal Chettri, Indian National Congress, Hand
3. Mr Indra Hang Subba, Sikkim Krantikari Morcha, Table Lamp
4. Mr Prem Das Rai, Sikkim Democratic Front, Umbrella
5. Mr Bharat Basnett, Citizen Action Party- Sikkim, Nagrik
6. Mr Kharga Bhadr Rai, Sikkim Republican Party, Flute
7. Ms Beena Rai, Independent candidate, Pen nib with seven rays
8. Mr Laten Tshering Sherpa, Independent candidate, Table
9. Mr Madhukar Dhakal, Independent candidate, Mike
10. Mr Nawin Kiran Pradhan, Independent candidate, Battery Torch
11. Mr Ravi Chandra Rai, Independent candidate, Computer
12. Mr Rudra Mani Pradhan, Independent candidate, Water Tank
13. Mr Sambhu Chettri, Independent candidate, Diamond
14. Mr Shyamal Pal, Independent candidate, Football Player.

The Returning Officer received 1 withdrawal of Mr Sonam Pintso Bhutia, an independent candidate from 32-Sangha Assembly Constituency under Gangtok district. The symbols were allotted to the contesting candidates of Assembly Constituencies by the concerned Returning Officers of Assembly Constituencies.

Likewise, the contesting candidates for **16-Tumen Lingi Assembly Constituency** and their symbols are:

1. Mr Norzong Lepcha, Sikkim Democratic Front, Umbrella
2. Mr Passang Gyali Sherpa, Bharatiya Janata Party, Lotus
3. Mr Samdup Lepcha, Indian National Congress, Hand
4. Mr Samdup Tshering Bhutia, Sikkim Krantikari Morcha, Table Lamp
5. Mr Pema Gyalpu Bhutia, Citizen Action Party- Sikkim, Nagarik.

The contesting candidates and their symbols for the **17-Khamdong-Singtam Assembly Constituency** and their symbols are:

1. Mr Chetan Sapkota, Bharatiya Janata Party, Lotus
2. Mr Mani Kumar Sharma, Sikkim Democratic Front, Umbrella
3. Mr Nar Bahadur Dahal,

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha, Table Lamp

4. Mr Tanka Nath Adhikari, Indian National Congress, Hand
5. Ms Sumati Chettri, Citizen Action Party- Sikkim, Nagarik.

The contesting candidates for **23-Shyari Assembly Constituency** and their symbols are:

1. Mr Karma Tashi Bhutia, Indian National Congress, Hand
2. Mr Kunga Nima Lepcha, Sikkim Krantikari Morcha, Table Lamp
3. Mr Pempo Dorjee Lepcha, Bharatiya Janata Party, Hand
4. Mr Tenzing Norbu, Sikkim Democratic Front, Umbrella
5. Mr Sonam Tshering Lepcha, Citizen Action Party- Sikkim, Nagarik.

The contesting candidates for **24-Martam-Rumtek Assembly Constituency** and their symbols are:

1. Mr Chewang Dadul Bhutia, Bharatiya Janata Party, Lotus
2. Ms Ganga Lepcha, Indian National Congress, Hand
3. Mr Mechung Bhutia, Sikkim Democratic Front, Umbrella
4. Mr Sonam Tsh. Venchungpa, Sikkim Krantikari Morcha, Table Lamp
5. Mr Karma Tshering Bhutia, Citizen Action Party- Sikkim, Nagarik.

The contesting candidates for **25-Upper Tadong Assembly Constituency** and their symbols are:

1. Dr. Chandra Bahadur Chettri, Sikkim Democratic Front, Umbrella
2. Mr G.T. Dhungel, Sikkim Krantikari Morcha, Table Lamp
3. Mr Niren Adhikari, Bharatiya Janata Party, Lotus
4. Mr Ravi Gurung, Citizen Action Party- Sikkim, Nagarik
5. Mr Kailash Chandra Pradhan, Independent Candidate, Envelope.

The contesting candidates for **26-Arithang Assembly Constituency** and their symbols are:

1. Mr Arun Kumar Upreti, Sikkim Krantikari Morcha, Table Lamp
2. Mr Ashis Rai, Sikkim Democratic Front, Umbrella
3. Mr Sumitra Rai, Indian National Congress, Hand
4. Mr Udai Gurung, Bharatiya Janata Party, Lotus
5. Mr Rikesh Pradhan, Citizen Action Party-Sikkim, Nagarik.

The contesting candidates for **27-Gangtok Assembly Constituency** and their symbols are:

1. Mr Delay Namgyal Barfungpa, Sikkim Krantikari Morcha, Table Lamp
2. Mr Pema Wangyal Rinzing, Bharatiya Janata Party, Lotus
3. Mr Pintso Chopel Lepcha, Sikkim Democratic Front, Umbrella
4. Mr Snumit Targain, Indian National Congress, Hand
5. Mr Dawcho Lepcha,

Citizen Action Party- Sikkim, Nagarik.

The contesting candidates for **28-Upper Burtuk Assembly Constituency** and their symbols are:

1. Mr Aita Tamang, Indian National Congress, Hand
2. Mr Dil Bahadur Thapa, Sikkim Democratic Front, Umbrella
3. Mr Dilli Ram Thapa, Bharatiya Janata Party, Lotus
4. Ms. Kala Rai, Sikkim Krantikari Morcha, Table Lamp
5. Mrs Bhim Kumar Tamang, Citizen Action Party-Sikkim, Nagarik.

The contesting candidates for **32-Sangha Assembly Constituency** and their symbols are:

1. Mr Sonam Lama, Sikkim Krantikari Morcha, Table Lamp
2. Mr Tseten Tashi Bhutia, Bharatiya Janata Party, Lotus
3. Mr Tshering Lama, Sikkim Democratic Front, Umbrella
4. Mr Norcho Lepcha, Citizen Action Party- Sikkim, Nagarik.

Mr Jitendra Kumar (IAS) General Observer for Gangtok District, briefed about C-VIGIL App, where one can lodge complaints regarding violation of Model Code of Conduct. He also spoke about SUVIDHA App and its usage. He cautioned the political parties to refrain from lodging complaints based on rumours. The new EVMs Management System (EMS) was mentioned, which has drastically reduced human interaction since its inception as the official software used by ECI to randomize EVMs and VVPATs.

Mr Tushar G Nihare also the Returning Officer 01- Sikkim Parliamentary Constituency briefed the candidates about Do's and Don'ts during Model Code of Conduct (MCC). He cautioned the political parties to maintain proper lodging of expenditure during their campaign. He informed about the 24/7 hotline number regarding any complaints of violation of MCC and the C Vigil app. Further, it was informed that the second randomization of EVMs and VVPATs, which will be used in Gangtok district for General Elections 2024 will take place on April 2, 2024 in the presence of political parties and independent candidates.

An interactive session also took place between the General Observer Gangtok, DEO Gangtok and the representatives of political parties.

Mr Jitendra Kumar General, Observer for Gangtok District can be reached on his mobile number- 9332624026.

Additionally, individuals have the opportunity to meet him in person between 9:30 am and 10:30 am at the Circuit House in VIP Colony, Gangtok.

The contact numbers provided below can be used to reach the District Control Room for complaints related to the General Elections 2024:03592-299559/03592-456419.

Cricket Tournament under SVEEP

Gangtok, March 31: One-day Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) Cricket Tournament 2024 was organised by the District Election Officer, Gangtok in association with Nehru Yuva Kendra, Gangtok, at Nar Bahadur Bhandari Government College Tadong, today.

The tournament was organised to generate awareness among the voters for the General Elections 2024.

The event was attended by Mr Rohan Agawane ADC Gangtok, Mr Girdhari Lal Meena SDM Gangtok, Mr Roshan Subba SDM Gangtok, Mr Abhijeet R Patil Assistant Collector also Nodal Officer SVEEP Gangtok, and Dr Devabrata Purohit, Principal Nar Bahadur Bhandari Government College, Tadong.

ADC Gangtok encouraged the young voters to participate in the electoral process and made them aware of the SVEEP activities.

The tournament was played between four teams; NGO Gangtok XI, District Administrative Centre Gangtok XI, Nar Bahadur Bhandari Government College Staff XI, and Nar Bahadur Bhandari Government College Students XI.

The first match was played between Nar Bahadur Bhandari Government College Students XI

Scanning of CUs BUS and VVPATs held

Pakyong, March 31: In connection with the ensuing General Elections 2024, the scanning of Control Units (CUs), Ballot Units (BUS), and VVPATs (Voter Verified Paper Audit Trails) held at the Auditorium of Dikling Senior Secondary School Pakyong, today.

The scanning process was supervised by Mr Tashi Chophel District Election Officer Pakyong, along with Ms Anupa Tamling ADC Pakyong, Joint Secretary Election Department, SDM Pakyong, SDM Rangpo, Deputy Secretary Election Department, and Assistant Returning Officers (AROs) and representatives from various political parties.

The CUs, BUS and VVPATs

Expenditure Observers meet Excise Commissioner

Gangtok, March 30: Mr S Sundaresan (IRS), Mr J Premanand (IRS) and Mr Prasoon Kabra (IRS), Expenditure Observers for the General Election 2024 for Gangtok District visited Excise Department, wherein they met with Ms Binita Chettri, State Excise Commissioner, today.

ROs allocate symbols to independent candidates

Pakyong, March 30: The Returning Officers for General Elections 2024, allocated symbols to independent candidates at the DAC Pakyong, today.

The Returning Officers advised candidates against modifying the assigned symbols to prevent voter confusion during voting. This precautionary

versus NGO XI, wherein, the former team won the match by 8 wickets. The second match was played between Nar Bahadur Bhandari Government College Staff XI and DAC Gangtok XI, wherein, the latter team had set a target of 141 runs. NBBGC Staff XI won the match by 9 wickets.

The third-place match was played between DAC Gangtok XI versus NGO Gangtok XI where the latter team had set a target of 80 runs that was easily achieved by the former team.

DAC Gangtok won the match and secured third position.

The finals of the tournament was played between NBBGC Staff XI and NBBGC Students XI. The Students XI won the match by 38 runs to lift the SVEEP Cricket Tournament 2024.

The teams were handed over trophies and individual certificates through the hands of ADC Gangtok and Principal Nar Bahadur Bhandari Government College, Tadong.

The highest run scorer's trophy was presented to Mr Agawane Rohan Ramesh, ADC Gangtok from team DAC with 114 runs in two matches.

The highest wicket-taker award was presented to Mr Zakir Hussian of NBBGC Students XI with 6 wickets across 3 matches.

allocated after the first phase of randomisation for the Assembly Constituency and Parliamentary Constituency were scanned and sealed in the Strong Room located at Dikling Senior Secondary School. In compliance with the guidelines set by the Election Commission of India, the EVMs in the Strong Room are under 3-tier security system.

The innermost cordon is safeguarded by SSB, middle cordon by SAP/IRBN, and the outer cordon by civil Police. The Strong Room is further fortified through constant CCTV surveillance, double-sealing, and round-the-clock protection by the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB).

During their visit, the Expenditure Observers engaged in discussions regarding the readiness of the State Excise Department to monitor alcohol distribution within the State, ensuring vigilance against any irregularities and efforts to prevent election related inducements.

measure ensures that the electoral process remains fair and unbiased, allowing voters to make informed decisions based on the symbols associated with each candidate.

Mr Pradeep Kumar IAS, General Observer outlined the MCC guidelines and requested that the candidates and election agents, observe free and fair polls.

Training for Facilitation Centre Teams in Soreng held

Soreng, April 2: Dr PB Chettri, Principal Government Senior Secondary School Soreng, along with Mr KB Subba, Chief Pay and Accounts Officer, conducted training sessions for the Facilitation Centre Teams at the Rurban Complex in Soreng, today.

The training aimed at familiarising officers and officials with the voting procedures outlined in the Representation of People Act, 1951, focusing on Section 18A.

Dr PB Chettri Resource Person, emphasised that individuals involved in election duties, such as polling personnel,

management teams, and Police personnel, along with essential service providers (Health, Public Health Engineering, IPR, Power Departments and IRBn), will cast their votes at the Facilitation Centres located at B Ed College Soreng between April 9-12. He stressed on the importance of designated teams comprising four members each, stationed at three Facilitation Centres during the polling day. Additionally, he underscored the significance of Annexures I, II, III, IV, V, as well as Form 13A, 13B, 13C, and 13D, which were distributed to officers and officials.

Furthermore, he elaborated on the responsibilities of the Facilitation Centre Teams, highlighting the necessity to maintain the secrecy of votes and to accurately segregate them according to district and constituency. It was also emphasised that mobile phones must be kept outside the hall during polling hours to ensure integrity.

Subsequently, hands-on training sessions were conducted for the officers and officials familiarising them on the procedures.

DEO Soreng convenes meeting with contesting candidates

Soreng, April 2: As per procedures of the ECI, a meeting with the contesting candidates under Soreng District for General Elections 2024 was held at the DAC, today.

The meeting was convened by Ms Yishey D Yongda, DEO Soreng and in the presence of Ms Neena Sharma IAS General Observer (GO) and Mr Srikanth N Expenditure Observer (EO).

Also present were Mr Nahkul Pradhan SP Soreng, Mr Dhiraj Subedi Deputy DEO cum RO, Mr Gaayas Pega ADC (Dev.), Mr DR Bista SDM (Hq), Mr Sunny Kharel RO, Mr Sameer Pradhan SDPO Soreng, along with Election Nodal Officers.

At the outset, the DEO presented an overview of the district's preparedness for the upcoming elections, covering various topics like Model Code of Conduct and order enforced under 144 CrPC, details of Polling Stations, Strong Room arrangements, provision of Electronic Voting Machines - AC and PC wise, Poll personnel and their capacity building, Postal Ballot and Home Voting, regular manpower training, MCMC, Election Expenditure Management and Monitoring.

Additionally, she laid down legal provisions against violations of MCC and urged for strict compliance by soliciting every candidate's cooperation and support.

Similarly, she highlighted on various IT intervention made by the Commission viz. SAKSHAM App, C-Vigil App, Know Your Candidate (KYC) App. She also added that any complaint may also be reported 24x7 District Helpline numbers or emails to the DEO. She assured that all legitimate complaints will be verified and handled as per the ECI guidelines.

SP Soreng elaborated on the District's Law and Order arrangements designed to ensure a peaceful and incident free elections further assuring that the security measures have been rationalised as per the ECI norms.

Mr Rakesh Sharma, Nodal Officer/Expenditure Monitoring Committee-cum-CPAO also explained the statutory and non-statutory accounting provisions for the candidate, the expenditure agents and the assistance expenditure agents. He mentioned the dates of account reconciliation (April 8, 12 and 16) between the EMC

team and Expenditure team of political parties.

Ms Neena Sharma (GO) acknowledged the efforts made by the DEO and her team to ensure and facilitate one of the largest democratic events in the district and urged for equal support from the political parties for successful elections. She advised them to provide basic information to their respective Polling and Counting agents for seamless activities during the polls. She assured that all necessary assistance will be provided when contacted to the electoral officials. She further urged to maintain the rudimentary protocols of elections and extended her best wishes to all the candidates.

Mr Srikanth N (EO) briefed about the Expenditure related queries and information.

For information of all, the 24X7 District Helpline Numbers are; 7365969373/7363968503.

General Observer: 9956333253/9332610632

Expenditure Observer: 8985972392/7609037271

The complaints may also be sent to the DEO through mail id dmsorengsikkim@gmail.com and C-VIGIL App.

Training conducted for Facilitation Centre teams held

Pakyong, April 2: A training session focusing on the Facilitation Centre and Postal Voting Centre (PVC) was held at the Rurban Complex in Pakyong, today.

Mr Tashi Chopel, DC-cum- DEO Pakyong, gave an overview of the roles and functionality of the Centres. He specified that Dikling Senior Secondary School and Conference Hall of the Rurban Complex are designated venues for the Facilitation Centre, operating from April 9 to April 12, 2024.

Mr Tshering Chopel Bhutia, Additional Director Agriculture Department and Nodal Officer for Postal Ballot (PB), stressed on the important roles of the teams and emphasised the need for vigilance during the training due to the unique nature of

postal ballot in this election.

Participants were encouraged to familiarise themselves with the form submission requirements, as daily reports must be submitted to the DEO within a specified timeframe.

Mrs Rebecca Gurung, Deputy Director, Agriculture Department cum Assistant Nodal Officer of PB, provided detailed information on the roles of the team members while underscoring the importance of voter confidentiality.

The session included discussions on Home Voting Procedures, Postal Ballot Forms, and eligibility criteria for certain groups, like senior citizens aged 85+ and Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) with a 40% benchmark disability who can access Home Voting facilities.

Participants assigned to

the Facilitation Centre were directed to Annexure 4, while those assigned to the Postal Voting Centre (PVC) were instructed to refer to Annexure 12, as each category has a distinct format for voter facilitation.

Various responsibilities of the Facilitation Centre and Postal Voting Centre teams were highlighted, such as verifying voter ID cards, applying ink to the index finger, and monitoring mobile phones in the deposit centre.

Likewise, practical training was also provided on completing forms and sealing envelopes.

Also present during the session were Ms Anupa Tamling ADC Pakyong, Mrs Merina Rai Joint Secretary, Election Department and trainees.

Home Voting team undergo training

Pakyong, April 1: A training session for Home Voting team took place at the Rurban Complex in Pakyong, today.

Mr Tashi Chopel District Election Officer Pakyong emphasised on the responsibilities of the Home Voting Team and urged them to be cautious as the poll day approaches.

Mr Tshering Chopel Bhutia, Additional Director Agriculture Department cum Nodal Officer for Postal Ballot (PB), advised the participants to be attentive during the training for smooth conduct of election.

Furthermore, Mrs Rebecca Gurung, Deputy Director, Agriculture Department cum Assistant Nodal Officer of PB, stressed on the guidelines of the ECI regarding the Home Voting facility for senior citizens aged 85+ and PwD voters with a 40% benchmark disability. She

discussed about the roles of the team in detail and composition of the team, which includes a Sector Officer, Polling Officer, Micro Observer, and a Videographer.

She also stressed on the importance of maintaining secrecy of the votes throughout the process. Regarding postal ballots, she informed that pink-coloured forms are used for Assembly Constituency while white-coloured forms are used for Parliamentary Constituency. She provided hands-on training to the trainees on filling up forms like Annexure 10 and Annexure 11 and sealing of the envelopes.

The training session was attended by Ms Anupa Tamling ADC Pakyong, Mr Thendup Lepcha SDM Rangpo, Mr Sonam Tshering Lepcha SDM Rongli, staff of the Election Department and trainees.

2nd randomisation of EVMs and VVPATs conducted in Soreng

Soreng, April 2: The second randomisation of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trails (VVPATs) was conducted at National Informatics Centre (NIC) studio, Soreng, today.

The process was carried out in the presence of Ms Neena Sharma (General Observer), Mr Srikanth N (Expenditure Observer), Ms Yishey D Yongda DC-cum-District Election Officer, Mr Nahkul Pradhan SP Soreng, Mr Dhiraj Subedi ADC-cum-Returning Officer, Mr Sunny Kharel SDM-cum-Returning Officer, Mr DR Bista SDM (Hq), contesting candidates and their representatives.

The entire procedure had constituency-wise randomisation through EVM Management

System (EMS). After rounds of re-randomisation, and upon satisfaction of the contesting candidates/election agents, the data was frozen and randomised machines were allocated at their Polling Stations. Thereafter, the list of randomised EVMs was circulated to contesting candidates, their representatives and General Observer.

Subsequently, the randomisation of Polling Personnel was also done in the presence of General Observer, DEO and ROs. AC wise Polling Station details were provided to the General Observer by DC-cum-DEO along with list of critical Polling stations, all Women Booths and women friendly booths.

Health Tips

* **Eat a healthy diet:** Eat a combination of different foods, including fruit, vegetables, legumes, nuts and whole grains. Adults should eat at least five portions (400g) of fruit and vegetables per day. By eating healthy, you will reduce your risk of malnutrition and noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) such as diabetes, heart disease, stroke and cancer.

* **Cosume less salt and sugar:** Reduce your salt intake to 5g per day, equivalent to about one teaspoon. On the other hand, consuming excessive amounts of sugars increases the risk of tooth decay and unhealthy weight gain.

* **Reduce intake of harmful fats:** Fats consumed should be less than 30% of your total energy intake. This will help prevent unhealthy weight gain and NCDs. There are different types of fats, but unsaturated fats are preferable over saturated fats and trans-fats.

* **Avoid harmful use of alcohol:** There is no safe level for drinking alcohol. Consuming alcohol can lead to health problems such as mental and behavioural disorders.

* **Don't smoke:** Smoking tobacco causes NCDs such as lung disease, heart disease and stroke.

* **Be active:** Physical activity is defined as any bodily movement produced by skeletal muscles that requires energy expenditure. This includes exercise and activities undertaken while working, playing, carrying out household chores, travelling, and engaging in recreational pursuits.

* **Cover your mouth when coughing or sneezing:** Diseases such as influenza, pneumonia and tuberculosis are transmitted through the air. When an infected person coughs or sneezes, infectious agents may be passed on to others through airborne droplets. When you feel a cough or sneeze coming on, make sure you have covered your mouth with a face mask or use a tissue then dispose it carefully.

Contd. from front page

Final list...

Pradhan, Independent candidate
4. Mr Ravi Gurung from Citizen Action Party- Sikkim
5. Mr Niren Bhandari from Bharatiya Janata Party.

26-Arithang AC

1. Mr Ashis Rai from Sikkim Democratic Front
2. Mr Arun Kumar Upreti from Sikkim Krantikari Morcha
3. Mr Rikesh Pradhan from Citizen Action Party- Sikkim
4. Mr Udai Gurung from Bharatiya Janata Party
5. Ms Sumitra Rai from Indian National Congress.

27-Gangtok AC

1. Mr Delay Namgyal Barfungpa from Sikkim Krantikari Morcha
2. Mr Pintso Chopel Lepcha from Sikkim Democratic Front
3. Mr Pema Wangyal Rinzing from Bharatiya Janata Party
4. Ms Snumit Targain from Indian National Congress
5. Mr Dawcho Lepcha from Citizen Action Party- Sikkim.

28-Upper Burtuk AC

1. Ms Kala Rai from Sikkim Krantikari Morcha
2. Mr Dil Bahadur Thapa from Sikkim Democratic Front
3. Mr Dilli Ram Thapa from Bharatiya Janata Party
4. Mr Aita Tamang from Indian National Congress
5. Mr Bhim Kumar Tamang from Citizen Action Party- Sikkim.

32-Sangha AC

1. Mr Sonam Lama from Sikkim Krantikari Morcha
2. Mr Tshering Lama from Sikkim Democratic Front
3. Mr Tseten Tashi Bhutia from Bharatiya Janata Party
4. Mr Norcho Lepcha, Citizen Action Party- Sikkim

In **Namchi District**, Mr Rup Narayan Chamling an Independent candidate for 15 Rangang-Yangang Assembly Constituency withdrew his nomination through his proposer Mr Purna Bahadur Rai in the office of Returning Officer, Mr Tshering Norgyal Theengh.

Altogether, a total of 29 candidates will be in fray for General Elections for 7 Assembly Constituencies in Namchi district after the scrutiny and withdrawal of nominations.

09-Barfung AC

1. Mr Bhaichung Bhutia- Sikkim Democratic Front
2. Mr Dadul Lepcha- Citizen Action Party-Sikkim
3. Mr Rikshal Dorjee Bhutia- Sikkim Krantikari Morcha
4. Mr Tashi Dadul Bhutia- Bharatiya Janta Party.

10-Poklok-Kamrang AC

1. Mr Arjun Rai-BJP
2. Mr Bhoj Raj Rai -SKM
3. Mr Pawan Kumar Chamling-SDF
4. Mrs Sanju Rai -CAP-Sikkim.

11-Namchi-Singhithang AC

1. Mrs Aruna Manger -BJP
2. Mr Bimal Rai -SDF
3. Mrs Krishna Kumari Rai -SKM
4. Mr Mahesh Rai -CAP-Sikkim

12-Melli AC

1. Mr Ganesh Kumar Rai- CAP-Sikkim.

2. Mr Nar Bahadur Pradhan -SKM
3. Mr Nirmal Kumar Pradhan -SDF
4. Mr Rupen Karki- Independent Candidate
5. Mr Yogen Rai -BJP.

13-Namthang-Ratyepani AC

1. Mr Hari Chandra Chettri- CAP-Sikkim
2. Mr Janak Kumar Gurung -BJP

3. Mr Sanjeet Kharel -SKM
4. Mr Suman Pradhan -SDF

14-Temi-Namphing AC

1. Mr Bedu Singh Panth -SKM
2. Mr Bikash Sharma -CAP-Sikkim
3. Mr Bhupendra Giri -BJP
4. Mr Suman Kumar Tewari -SDF

15-Rangang-Yangang AC

1. Mr Anil Kumar Nepal -CAP-Sikkim
2. Mr Gopi Das Pokhrel -BJP
3. Mr Mani Kumar Subba -SDF
4. Mrs Raj Kumari Thapa -SKM.

In **Mangan District**, no candidates withdrew their nominations for 3 Assembly Constituencies.

With that, the final number of contesting candidates for the upcoming General Elections 2024 from Mangan district stands at 9.

The names of the candidates are:

29-Kabi Lungchuk AC

1) Mr Thenlay Tshering Bhutia -SKM
2) Mr GnawoChopel Lepcha -SDF
3) Mr Ugen Nedup Bhutia -BJP.

30-Djongu AC

1) Mr Pintso Namgyal Lepcha -SKM
2) Mr Penzong Lepcha -BJP
3) Mr Sonam Gyatsho Lepcha -SDF
4) Mr Jorbu Tshering Lepcha CAP-Sikkim.

31-Lachen Mangan AC

1) Mr Hissey Lachungpa SDF
2) Mr Samdup Lepcha -SKM.

Similarly, in **Gyalshing District**, one independent candidate Mr Sangso Lepcha from 01 **Yoksam Tashiding AC** withdrew his candidature at the Office of the Returning Officer in DAC Gyalshing. The final list of contesting candidates are;

01-Yoksam Tashiding AC

1. Mr Kamal Lepcha -INC
2. Mr Tshering Thendup Bhutia -SKM
3. Mr. Sonam Palzor Bhutia -Independent Candidate
4. Mr. Meewang Gyatso Bhutia -SDF
5. Mr. Jigmey Bhutia, CAP-Sikkim
6. Mr. Palden Lepcha -Independent Candidate
7. Mr. Kunzang Sherab Bhutia -BJP.

02-Yangthang AC

1. Mr Pravin Sharma -Independent Candidate
2. Mr Bhim Hang Limboo -SKM
3. Mr Mangal Subba -INC
4. Mr Kesham Limboo -SDF
5. Mr Phip Dhoj Limboo -CAP-Sikkim
6. Mr Sanchaman Limboo -

BJP.

03-Maneybong-Dentam AC

1. Mr Sudesh Kumar Subba -SKM
2. Mr Nar Bahadur Gurung -INC

3. Mr Tika Ram Chettri -SDF
4. Mr Prakash Sharma -CAP-Sikkim

5. Mr Narendra Kumar Subba -BJP
6. Mr Dipendra Gurung -Independent candidate.

04-Gyalshing-Barnyak AC

1. Mr Lok Nath Sharma -SKM

2. Mr Pujan Kharka -CAP-Sikkim
3. Dr Tika Prasad Sharma -SDF
4. Mr Bharat Kumar Sharma -BJP
5. Mr Khusandra Prasad Sharma -Independent Candidate.

In **Pakyong District**, 2 Independent Candidates namely, Mr Dhebendra Subba from 20 Chujachen AC and Mr Prem Bahadur Chettri from 22 Namcheybung AC withdrew their candidatures at the Office of the Returning Officers in DAC Pakyong. The final list of contesting candidates for 5 Assembly Constituencies are:

18-West Pendam AC

1. Mr Lall Bahadur Das -SKM
2. Mr Anup Thatal -SDF
3. Mr Bhupal Baraily -BJP
4. Dr Madan Kumar Shiva Shanker-CAP-Sikkim
5. Mr Jagdish Cintury -Independent Candidate.

19-Rhenock AC

1. Mr Prem Singh Tamang-SKM
2. Mr Som Nath Poudyal -SDF
3. Mr Prem Chettri Khatiwara -BJP
4. Mr Tika Ram Sharma -CAP-Sikkim
5. Mr Kapil Prasad Sapkota -INC
6. Ms Laxmi Sharma -SRP.

20-Chujachen AC

1. Mr Purnan Kr. Gurung -SKM
2. Mr Mani Kumar Gurung -SDF
3. Mr Duk Nath Nepal -BJP
4. Mr Ganesh Kumar Rai -CAP-Sikkim.

21-Gnathang Machong AC

1. Mrs Pamin Lepcha -SKM
2. Mr Sangey Gyasto Bhutia -BJP
3. Mrs Phuri Sherpa from CAP-Sikkim
4. Mrs Tshering Pema Bhutia -INC
5. Mr Tshering Wangdi Lepcha -SDF

22-Namcheybong AC

1. Mr Raju Basnet -SKM
2. Mr Pawan Kumar Chamling -SDF
3. Mrs Pooja Sharma -BJP
4. Mr Severine Rai -CAP-Sikkim.

On the last day of withdrawal of nominations for 4 Assembly Constituencies under Soreng District, no candidates withdrew their nominations.

In Soreng district as informed by District Election Officer Ms Yishey D Yongda, no candidates withdrew their candidature and the final number of contesting candidates for the upcoming General Elections 2024

CRH introduces PACS

Gangtok, April 3: Central Referral Hospital (CRH), Sikkim Manipal Institute of Medical Sciences (SMIMS) under Sikkim Manipal University (SMU), achieved a significant milestone by becoming the first hospital in Sikkim to introduce the Picture Archiving & Communication System (PACS). The inauguration ceremony was attended by Air Vice Marshal (Dr) DC Agarwal, Vice Chancellor of SMU; Dr Karma Sonam Sherpa, Registrar of SMU; Mr Subhendu Prakash, Chief Operating Officer of CRH; Col (Dr) Navneet Singh Chhabra, Additional Medical Superintendent; and Dr B S Verma, Head of the Department of Radiology, along with other members of CRH.

During the ceremony, the Vice Chancellor of SMU commended the efforts of the CRH team for their successful implementation of the innovative initiative. The introduction of PACS is expected to significantly enhance patient care at CRH, providing advanced imaging and communication capabilities that will benefit both patients and healthcare professionals in the region. This technological advancement underscores CRH's commitment to staying at the forefront of healthcare innovation and delivering high-quality medical services to the community.

It may be mentioned that a Picture Archiving and Communication System (PACS) is a medical imaging technology which provides economical storage and convenient access to images from multiple modalities electronic images and reports that are transmitted digitally via PACS.

This eliminates the need to manually file, retrieve, or transport film jackets, the folders used to

stands at 16.

The names of the 16 candidates from the 4 Assembly Constituencies are;

05-Rinchenpong AC

1. Mr Norden Bhutia -SDF
2. Mr Dawa Ongdi Lepcha -CAP-Sikkim
3. Mr Erung Tenzing Lepcha -SKM

06-Daramdin AC

1. Mr Pem Dorjee Sherpa-CAP-Sikkim
2. Mr Phurba Dorjee Sherpa -BJP
3. Mr Pem Norbu Sherpa -SDF
4. Mr Mingma Norbu Sherpa -SKM

07-Soreng-Chakung AC

1. Mr Prem Singh Tamang -SKM
2. Dr Akar Dhoj Limbu -SDF
3. Mr Purna Singh Subba -BJP
4. Mr Pobin Hang Subba -CAP-Sikkim.

08-Salghari-Zoom AC

1. Mr Kaushal Lohagan -CAP-Sikkim
2. Mr Janga Bir Darnal -SDF
3. Mr Pahal Man Kami -BJP
4. Mr Madan Cintury -SKM.

Likewise, the final list of the contesting candidates for **01-Sikkim Parliamentary**

store and protect X-ray film. The universal format for PACS image storage and transfer is DICOM (Digital Imaging and Communications in Medicine).

PACS helps in reducing the patient waiting time for Radiology reports which thereby increases in patient satisfaction. PACS helps in providing accurate & precise reporting which allows in faster and more accurate diagnosis and treatment planning. It also improves communication and collaboration among healthcare professionals involved in a patient's care.

It eliminates the need for manual film processing and storage, which can significantly reduce the time and effort required to manage and retrieve medical images. Instead, images can be viewed, accessed, and shared quickly and easily from any location with secure network access.

It eliminates the need for costly film and film processing equipment and physical storage space for film-based images, resulting in significant cost savings for healthcare facilities.

It includes robust security features to protect patient data and ensure that authorized healthcare professionals only access images. These procedures will help to prevent data breaches and protect patient privacy.

PACS allows healthcare professionals to view and manage medical images more efficiently, reducing the time and effort required for image retrieval, viewing, and interpretation. These functions can improve productivity and workflow for radiology departments and other healthcare professionals involved in patient care.

Constituency stands at 14, with no withdrawal of candidates received by the Returning Officer for 01- Sikkim Parliamentary Constituency Mr Tushar G Nihare.

The names of contesting candidates are:

1. Mr Dinesh Chandra Nepal, Bharatiya Janata Party
2. Mr Gopal Chettri, Indian National Congress
3. Mr Indra Hang Subba, Sikkim Krantikari Morcha
4. Mr Prem Das Rai, Sikkim Democratic Front
5. Mr Bharat Basnett, Citizen Action Party- Sikkim
6. Mr Kharga Bhadur Rai, Sikkim Republican Party
7. Ms Beena Rai, Independent Candidate
8. Mr Laten Tshering Sherpa, Independent Candidate
9. Mr Madhukar Dhakal, Independent Candidate
10. Mr Nawin Kiran Pradhan, Independent Candidate
11. Mr Ravi Chandra Rai, Independent Candidate
12. Mr Rudra Mani Pradhan, Independent Candidate
13. Mr Sambhu Chettri, Independent Candidate
14. Mr Shyamal Pal, Independent Candidate.

General Observer Gangtok district meets representatives of political parties

Gangtok, March 30: Mr Jitendra Kumar, General Observer for Gangtok District met with the representatives of various political parties at DAC Gangtok, today.

The General Observer was accompanied by Mr Rohan Agawane ADC Gangtok, Mr Milan Rai ADC Gangtok, Mr Roshan Subba SDM Gangtok and Mr GL Meena SDM (Hq) Gangtok.

The General Observer discussed about three Apps; the C-VIGIL App for complaints, the EMS App for the randomization of EVMs and VVPATs, and the SUVIDHA App for official permissions from relevant authorities. He pledged to thoroughly address and act upon any legitimate complaints filed by individuals.

Mr Tushar G Nihare District Election Officer Gangtok

and Returning Officer for 01-Sikkim Parliamentary Constituency and 32-Sangha Assembly Constituency, emphasised on the significance of meticulous lodging of expenditures. He informed everyone about the second randomization of EVMs and VVPATs scheduled for April 2, 2024, to be held at DIET College in Burtuk. Additionally, he provided detailed information about the randomization process.

Mr Rohan Agawane ADC Gangtok-cum-Returning Officer for 23-Arithang and 27-Gangtok Assembly Constituencies, spoke about permission of vehicles, loudspeakers, rallies, hoardings and banners. He informed the attendees about limitations regarding flags, vehicle modifications, and the nuances involved in door-to-door

campaigning.

An interactive session between Officers of District Election Office Gangtok District and representatives of political parties also took place during the meeting.

Mr Jitendra Kumar General, Observer for Gangtok District can be reached on his mobile number-9332624026.

Additionally, individuals have the opportunity to meet him in person between 9:30 am to 10:30 am at the Circuit House in VIP Colony, Gangtok.

The contact numbers provided below can be used to reach the District Control Room for complaints related to the General Elections 2024: 03592-299559/03592-456419.

Expenditure Observers for Gangtok district holds meeting

Gangtok, March 31: Mr S Sundaresan (IRS), Mr J Premanand (IRS) and Mr. Prasoon Kabra (IRS), Expenditure Observers for Gangtok District and Mr Lalhmingmawia Ralte for 16-Tumen Lingi, Gangtok District held a meeting at DAC Conference Hall, today.

The meeting also had the presence of Mr Tushar Nihare, DEO Gangtok, Mr Milan Rai ADC Gangtok and Officials from DAC Gangtok.

The Expenditure Observers highlighted the directives of Election Commission of India, underscoring the limit of 28 Lakhs for campaigning expense per candidate in Assembly Constituencies and 75 Lakhs per candidate for the Sikkim Parliamentary Constituency. It was stated that the Expenditure Agent, responsible for maintaining the expenditure register and bill book, will be appointed by the respective party candidates.

The Expenditure Observers also noted that all payments must be made via cheque or through account and should not make any

cash payment above ceiling limit of ₹10,000/- for any type of expenses.

It was also informed that the account reconciliation is set for April 4, 10 and 16, respectively. Further they said that the expenditure noted on official records and candidates' record should proportionately match.

Likewise, the Expenditure Observers emphasised on the vigilant monitoring of vehicles used for political campaigning, ensuring proper permission is obtained to prevent obstruction and inconvenience to the public. They also stressed on the importance of all candidates adhering to the Model Code of Conduct.

Similarly, it was informed that the listed Expenditure Observers can be reached for any queries or concerns. Additionally, individuals have the opportunity to meet them in person at the Circuit House in VIP Colony, Gangtok.

Mr S Sundaresan IRS,
01 Sikkim Parliamentary Constituency.

Contact No: 9445955081
Mr TT Bhutia, Liaison Officer

Contact No: 758698264
Mr J Premanand IRS,
25 Upper-Tadong, 26 Arithang, 28 Upper-Burtuk
Contact No: 9594080959
Mr Himmat Rai, Liaison Officer

Contact No: 9832556777
Mr Prasoon Kabra IRS
32 Sanga, 17 Khamdong-Singtam, 23 Shyari, 24 Martam Rumtek

Contact No: 9408790701
Mr Kishore Thapa, Liaison Officer

Contact No: 7908065760
The session concluded with interactive discussion to address any doubts or queries.

The contact numbers can be used to reach the District Control Room for complaints related to the General Elections 2024 and the complaints can also be registered online through C-VIGIL Application: 03592-299559/03592-456419.

Expenditure Observers for Gangtok district convenes meeting with FSTs

Gangtok, April 2: Mr S Sunderesan, Mr J Premanand, and Mr Prasoon Kabra, Expenditure Observers for Gangtok district for General Election 2024 convened a meeting with the Flying Squad Teams (FSTs) at CPWD Guest House in Gangtok, today.

The meeting was called to assess the preparedness, operational procedures, and communication strategies of the Flying Squad Teams.

The Flying Squad Teams for the 01-Sikkim Parliamentary Constituency and 9- Assembly

Constituencies under Gangtok district, namely, 16-Tumen Lingi, 17-Khamdong Singtam, 23-Shyari, 24-Martam Rumtek, 25-Upper Tadong, 26-Arithang, 27-Gangtok, 28-Upper Burtuk, and 32-Sangha, attended the session.

Second randomisation of EVMS and polling teams

Pakyong, April 2: The second randomisation of EVMS and polling teams for the General Elections 2024 was conducted by Mr Tashi Chophel, DEO Pakyong in the presence of Mr Pradeep Kumar (IAS), General Observer, along with contesting candidates and election agents at the Rurban Complex in Pakyong today.

Also present were Mr Ashish Kumar Pandey (IRS), Expenditure Observer, Mr Tenzing Loden Lepcha Sr SP Pakyong, Ms

Anupa Tamling, ADC Pakyong, Mrs Merina Rai, Joint Secretary, Election Cell and officers from department.

The DEO provided a comprehensive briefing to the on the procedures ensuring transparency and impartiality throughout the election. It was mutually agreed upon by the candidates to conduct two rounds of randomisation, with the second phase being the final round.

The objective of the

randomisation process was to distribute the Control Units (CU), Ballot Units (BU), Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trails (VVPATs), and Electronic Voting Machines (EVMS) to each Polling Station within the 5 Assembly Constituencies.

Copies of the randomised EVMS, BUs, and VVPATs allotted to each Polling Station for both the Assembly Constituencies and Parliamentary segments were also handed over to those present.

Final training for Polling Officers conducted

Gangtok, April 1: The final training session of Polling Officers designated for Postal Ballot Voting in Facilitation Centre and Postal Voting Centres was conducted at SCERT hall in Burtuk, today.

The training was attended by Mr Rohan Agawane ADC Gangtok, Mr GL Meena SDM (Hq) Gangtok, Mr Suresh Rai SDM Rabdang, Mr Samdesh Moktan Additional Director State Election Commission, Mr Sonam Wongyal Lepcha, DPO cum Nodal Officer for training management team and Disaster Mangement Department, Mr Abhijit Patil Assistant Collector Gangtok.

ADC Gangtok explained the process of postal ballot in Facilitation Centre and Postal Voting Centre (PVCs). He also informed about the composition of Facilitation Centre and their roles on poll day. He gave a series of

demonstration on Annexure 5, Annexure 6 and contents of postal ballot papers through a PowerPoint presentation.

Mr Samdesh Moktan Additional Director State Election Commission, gave theoretical class aimed to equip Polling Officers with essential knowledge and insights into the postal ballot voting processes for the election.

Mr Suresh Rai SDM Rabdang, gave a brief on postal ballot paper and its content. He illustrated on different categories of postal ballot papers for General Election 2024.

It may be mentioned that the postal ballot voting for Government employees who are engaged in election duties will take place from April 9-14, 2024 at three venues in DIET college at Burtuk, Paljor Stadium and Gangtok Municipal Corporation Hall.

Preparatory meeting for Police deployment

Gangtok, April 1: A preparatory meeting for the General Elections 2024 was convened at the Office of District Election Officer Gangtok in the presence of General Observer and Police Observer at DAC, today.

Also present were Mr Jitendra Kumar General Observer, Mr Ranjit Kumar Mishra Police Observer, Mr Tushar G Nihare DC Gangtok cum District Election Officer, Mr Karma Gyamtso Bhutia Sr. Superintendent of Police, Mr Rohan Agawane ADM Gangtok, Mr Milan Rai ADC (Hq) and Mr G L Meena SDM (Hq).

The meeting discussed strategic deployment of Police personnel.

Mr Karma Gyamtso

Bhutia, Sr Superintendent of Police, presented the deployment plan and readiness of Police personnel for facilitating the Postal Ballot voting process at both Facilitation Centres and Postal Voting Centres. Furthermore, he mentioned that Gangtok district caters to 14 critical Polling Stations, emphasising the need for proactive security measures in these areas.

Mr Ranjit Kumar Mishra, Police Observer, recommended deploying the Police force in alignment with the criticality of Polling Stations, emphasising the importance of prioritising security resources where needed.

DEO chairs preparatory meeting with Nodal Officers

Gangtok, April 1: Mr Tushar G Nihare District Election Officer Gangtok chaired a preparatory meeting with Nodal Officers from various line departments under Category 1,2,3,4 for Postal Ballot Voting Facilitation Centre under Gangtok district at his office, today.

The meeting had the presence of Ms Linda Palmu Bhutia Superintendent of Police Police (Hq), Mr Rohan Agawane ADC Gangtok, Mr Milan Rai ADC (Hq.), Mr GL Meena SDM (Hq) Gangtok, Ms Cocola Bhutia Commanding Officer, Mr Samdesh Moktan Additional Director State Election Commission, Mr Passang Lepcha Additional SP Gangtok and Mr Sonam Wangyal Lepcha Deputy Director Land Revenue and Disaster Management Department.

DEO evaluated the preparedness of Police personnel during the postal ballot voting process in Facilitation Centres and Postal Voting Centres. He gave a

detailed description of the Postal Ballot counting process and allocation of Postal Ballots during the poll day. He also briefed the Police Officers about vehicular movements during the Postal Ballot voting process.

The venues identified as Postal Ballot Facilitation Centres 1, 2 and 3 for General Elections 2024 under Gangtok district are;

1. Facilitation Centre-1 at DIET Auditorium Hall for Polling Personnel from April 9-12, 2024 (9am-1pm and 2pm-6pm).

2. Facilitation Centre 2 at GMC Futsal Arena

Hall 1- For District Police from April 9-10, 2024 (9am-6pm).

Postal Voting Centre
Hall 2- For Officials other than Polling personnel from April 12-14, 2024 (9am-6pm).

3. Facilitation Centre 3 at Paljor Stadium

For Sikkim Armed Police from April 9-12, 2024 (9am-6pm)

For Police Personnel from Police (Hq) from April 13-14, 2024 (9 am-6pm).

Comprehensive meeting to ensure fair electoral process

Namchi, April 2: To ensure fair electoral process for General Elections 2024, a meeting was conducted by Mrs Annapurna Alley, DEO Namchi in presence of Mr Amar Nath Upadhyay General Observer, Ms Bhagyashri Navatake Police Observer, Mr Ashish Kumar Shukla Expenditure Observer, Senior SP Namchi, ROs and AROs along with the contesting candidates of various political parties accompanied by their election agents.

The meeting had the presence of contesting candidates from 7 Assembly Constituencies (ACs) under Namchi District. The meeting was conducted in the Conference Hall of District Administrative Centre Namchi.

During the meeting, the Observers addressed the candidates and emphasised that a fair play be maintained for all. The General Observer stressed that all the guidelines provided by the ECI is being maintained, and that all the candidates should follow the same. He further stated that any infractions, which came to light has been taken care of, and urged all the candidates to maintain fair electoral process, ensuring that any grievances brought up shall be strictly and immediately addressed. Further the General Observer also pointed the fact that 'Vigilant Citizenship' is a strong necessity in any electoral process.

The Expenditure Observer pointed out that no obstruction to SSTs and VSTs shall be made in their working, stating the fact that video coverage is a necessary part to monitor the expenditure of the candidates. He also highlighted that any occurrence in violations made in the showcase of expenditure or misuse of funds by the candidates shall be dealt strictly.

The Police Observer also highlighted the importance of candidates to uphold the law and maintain peaceful environment for their campaigns, and that anyone can approach with their grievances at any given point of time which will be followed by necessary

steps and actions shall be taken to uphold the integrity of the electoral process.

DEO Namchi urged the contesting candidates to adhere with to the guidelines of MCC during the electoral process. She further stressed that a fair and smooth election shall be enforced for all the contesting candidates.

Mr Anant Jain RO-cum-ADC and Nodal Officer for EVMs gave a brief report on how the first level of checking of the EVMs was carried out followed by the first randomisation process and shifting of the EVMs being used for the upcoming poll. He also stated that all necessary actions of the checking of the EVMs, leading to the randomisation and the shifting to the Strong Room at Kamrang College Namchi was made under the supervision of appropriate authorities and political representatives. He also mentioned about the EVMs to be shifted to the ACs Polling Stations and as to how after the polls the EVMS shall be shifted back to the strong room, and kept till counting of the the votes on June 4.

ADC(Hq) Mr Subash Ghimirey, also the Nodal Officer for Law and Order briefed the gathering that no violations relating to caste, creed, religion or community shall be made by any candidate in their campaign. He also urged the election agents of candidates that they should help their respective candidates to follow the guidelines provided by the ECI for MCC. He also gave a brief information about the Model Code of Conduct and that all the candidates should adhere strictly to it. He also informed that one flag per vehicle and appropriate size of flags for two wheelers/four wheelers should be maintained during the campaigning tours.

Mr Sunil Chandra Sharma, Nodal Officer for Expenditure Monitoring Team briefed the candidates that all the expenditure incurred by them in their campaign shall be thoroughly monitored and that the candidates should without any fail fill their day-to-day

expenses incurred in the expenditure register provided to them. He also stated that an exclusive bank account shall be used solely by the candidate for the transactions during their campaign and no transaction from other accounts shall be entertained. He also stated that publishing materials by the candidates should be notified to the District Media Certification and Monitoring Committee and the names of the Printer and the Publishers should be mentioned. Failure to do so shall be met with strict and necessary actions. Further he also stated that use of illegal vehicles by the candidates without permission and their expenses shall be booked in the candidate's name. He also stated that three inspections by the Expenditure Observers shall be taken up at the Town Hall at Namchi. The dates for 09 Barfung, 10 Poklok-Kamrang, 11 Namchi-Singhithang and 12 Melli constituencies are from April 6, 12 and 17, 2024 and for 13 Namthang-Rateypani, 14 Temi-Namphing and 15 Rangang-Yangang shall take place on April 6, 13 and 14, 2024.

Deputy Secretary Nivedita Pradhan gave a brief information about postal ballots and home voting for senior citizens who are 85+ of age and PWDs and informed that the home voting shall commence from April 4, 2024. She also stated that the home voting process shall be done under the supervision of the teams allotted for the part along with Police personnel, Videographer, Micro Observers and authorised candidate representatives. She also provided the information that Facilitation Centres for Postal Ballot Voting has been prepared at DAC Conference Hall and 2 halls at Namchi Indoor Stadium.

The meeting also had an interactive session, where the candidates put forth their opinions and grievances to the Observers present. Later, the candidates were provided with their Identity Cards and election materials.

political parties to acquaint him about the critical Polling Stations. He also urged them to avoid fake news as the poll day approaches.

DEO-cum-DC Gangtok, briefed about the randomization process to the political parties. He explained that randomization is an automated process through EVMs Management System (EMS) software with the task to appoint EVMs and VVPATs to a particular Polling Station.

The DEO Gangtok cautioned about proper lodging of expenditure by political parties. He also spoke about regulations on printing of pamphlets, online media promotion of candidates, Home Voting for 85+ years senior citizens and 40% Person with Disabilities (PwDs).

It may be mentioned that the commissioning of EVMs and VVPATs under Gangtok district will take place from April 5 to April 8, 2024 in the presence of agents from various political parties.

Second randomization process for EVMs and VVPATs

Gangtok, April 2: The second randomization process for Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trails (VVPATs) to be used in the upcoming General Elections 2024 was conducted at the SCERT Auditorium near Burtuk helipad, today.

The randomization procedure was supervised by Mr Jitendra Kumar, General Observer for Gangtok district, alongside Mr Ranjit Kumar Mishra, Police Observer. Also present were Mr Tushar Nikhare, DEO Gangtok, along with ADC Gangtok, ADC (Hq) Gangtok, SDM (Hq) Gangtok, Assistant Collector Gangtok, ASP Gangtok and representatives from various political parties were also present.

The objective of the programme was to randomize EVMs and VVPATs designated for Sikkim Parliamentary Constituency (Assembly Segments), Assembly Constituencies and Sangha Constituency under Gangtok

district in the presence of political representatives.

The randomization list of EVMs and VVPATs for each Constituency under Gangtok district was also distributed to the candidates and their agents contesting for Sikkim Parliamentary Constituency, Assembly Constituencies and Sangha Assembly Constituency under Gangtok district.

It may be noted that the reserved EVMs and VVPATs for Gangtok district were also randomized during the course of the programme.

General Observer for Gangtok district, requested the political parties to appoint a polling agent. He also cautioned the political parties to verify complaints before forwarding them to concerned authorities. He assured everyone that all complaints will be dealt with strict and action will be taken without bias.

Police Observer urged the

ROs conduct meeting with contesting candidates

Pakyong, April 2: A meeting with the Returning Officers of Pakyong District Mr Tashi Chopel and Ms Anupa Tamling and the contesting candidates of 5 Assembly Constituencies under Pakyong District was held in the presence of Mr Pradeep Kumar IAS, General Observer, and Mr Ashish Kumar Pandey IAS, Expenditure Observer, along with Sr SP Pakyong, Mr Tenzing Loden Lepcha, IPS.

The meeting took place at the Conference Hall of Rurban Complex in Pakyong. During the meeting, DEO provided an overview of the Election Commission of India's guidelines that must be adhered to during the campaigning period.

He discussed about logistical aspects such as rallies, permissions, vehicle regulations, and door-to-door campaigning. In addition, he informed that a total of 109 Polling Stations have been established in Pakyong District, with five designated as Pink Booths.

He further mentioned that polling in 50% of the Polling Booths will be webcast and monitored live by the CEO and ECI on poll day to ensure a transparent electoral process. The Home Voting and facilitation dates for the 85+, PWDs, and employees casting postal ballots were also communicated to the candidates by him.

Sr SP Pakyong Mr Tenzing Loden Lepcha sensitised on various issues, including permit requirements, restrictions on flags, hoardings, and banners, emphasising the importance of maintaining integrity and fairness throughout the electoral process. He urged political parties to seek permits for sensitive areas a day prior to avoid any inconvenience.

Mr Pradeep Kumar IAS, General Observer, highlighted the importance of conducting fair and free elections and encouraged participants to engage in healthy competition.

Subsequently, Mr Ashish Kumar Pandey (IRS), Expenditure Observer, stressed the necessity for candidates to maintain detailed

records of their campaign expenditures. He elaborated on the do's and don'ts of election spending and informed about the operational Flying Squads, Static Surveillance Teams, Video Surveillance and Monitoring Teams deployed in the field to oversee candidates and party expenses.

Furthermore, he advised strict adherence to the instructions and emphasised the importance of complying with MCC guidelines and expenditure limits put in place for the candidates.

Ms Tenzing Pema, Joint Secretary Planning and Development Department and District Level Master Trainer (DLMT), conducted an extensive training session on the Model Code of Conduct for political parties and candidates.

Similarly, Mr Jayant Thapa, Chief Pay and Accounts Officer, offered detailed guidance on maintaining daily accounts for the contesting candidates.

The contesting candidates/ election agents, actively engaged in the meeting by seeking clarifications on the Model Code of Conduct. They raised their concerns and presented grievances to the concerned officers, demonstrating a commitment to ensuring a fair and transparent electoral process.

It may be noted that public can reach the Control Room at 03592-200023, which is accessible 24/7.

Following are the numbers of concerned observers of Pakyong District:

General Observer: Mr Pradeep Kumar, IAS: 8800240301.

LO to General Observer: Mr. Sonam Zangpo: 9832344784.

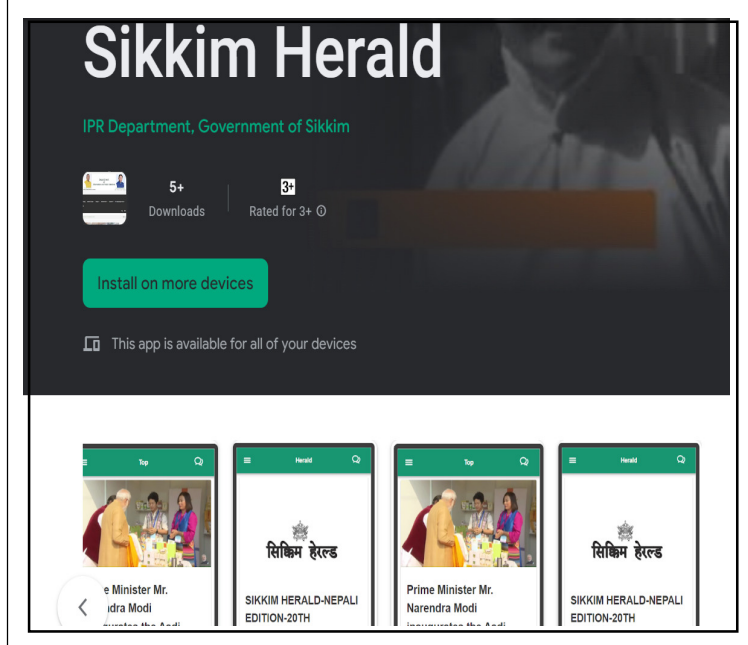
Expenditure Observer: Mr Ashish Kr Pandey, IRS: 8900239956

LO to Expenditure Observer: Mr Mani Kr Pradhan, 9832085972.

Police Observer: Mr Ranjit Kr Mishra, IPS: 9332602270

LO to Police Observer: Mr Jigme Bhutia: 8001553687

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Meeting on PC&PNDT Act 1994 held

Gangtok, April 2: A meeting of the State Advisory Committee under the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PC&PNDT) Act, 1994 was chaired by Dr Anusha Lama, Mission Director, National Health Mission (NHM), Sikkim, at the conference hall of Health Secretariat, today.

The meeting had the presence of Dr Anita Bhutia, Director, Reproductive Child Health (RCH), and Dr Manisha Rai, Joint Director, RCH, along with committee members from Radiology, OBG and Pediatrics departments of New STNM Hospital Sochyangang, NGO ASHI, Information and Public Relations Department and Legal Officer.

At the outset, Dr Manisha Rai, Joint Director, RCH provided an elaborate overview of the amendments to the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act, 1971 and highlighted the intricate connections between the MTP Act and the PC&PNDT Act.

While both acts deal with reproductive health issues, and address different aspects, the MTP Act primarily focuses on regulating and providing safe abortion services, ensuring women's reproductive rights and health. On the other hand, the PC&PNDT Act aims to prevent sex-selective abortions and regulate the use of prenatal diagnostic techniques to combat gender-based discrimination, she stated.

She added that conflation between the two acts can occur, especially concerning the

regulation of abortion services and prenatal diagnostic procedures. This overlap can lead to challenges in implementation, enforcement, and understanding among healthcare providers, policymakers, and the public, she added.

Therefore, clarifying the distinctions and ensuring effective coordination between the two acts is crucial for addressing reproductive health issues comprehensively while preventing gender-based discrimination and promoting women's health and rights, she informed.

She further spoke about the salient features of the MTP amendment that include provisions for expanding access to safe abortion services, enhancing confidentiality for women seeking abortions, and empowering registered medical practitioners to perform abortions up to 24 weeks of gestation under specified conditions among others.

Dr Anusha Lama, NHM Mission Director, emphasised on the importance of raising awareness about adolescent health issues, including reproductive health and access to safe abortion services. To prevent over-the-top sale of Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) kits and Medical Management of Abortion (MMA) drugs, brainstorming sessions could be conducted to develop strategies such as stricter regulations on the sale of these products, implementing educational

campaigns to discourage its misuse and enhancing monitoring and enforcement mechanisms.

Furthermore, she highlighted the need to change perspective among people and healthcare professionals regarding abortion and adolescent reproductive health. This could involve training programmes, workshops, and advocacy efforts aimed at reducing stigma, promoting empathy, and ensuring that healthcare providers understand and respect the reproductive rights of adolescents and women.

In future initiatives, the Mission Director proposed the establishment of a confidential helpline for women seeking information and support related to abortion services. This helpline could provide counselling, referrals to safe healthcare providers, and information about reproductive rights and options.

Additionally, exploring social media options for awareness, an Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) campaign could be beneficial to disseminate accurate information, address myths and misconceptions, and promote accessible and available reproductive health services could reach a wide audience, particularly adolescents and young adults, she added.

She stated that these would aim to address challenges like inappropriate sale of abortion-related drugs and changing attitudes among healthcare providers and public.

General Observer Mangan visits Facilitation Centres

Mangan, April 4: Mr Uma Kanth Umrao (IAS) General Election Observer for Mangan District visited Facilitation Centres 1 and 2 of Mangan district, today.

The General Observer was accompanied by Mr Hem Kumar Chettri DEO Mangan, Mr Sonam Detchu SP Mangan, Mr HS Kafley Nodal Officer District Control Room and other election officials.

The Facilitation Centres

have been initiated to enable the casting of Postal Ballots for Government officials engaged in various election duties for General Elections 2024.

The facilitation centres have been identified as;

1. DESME Office Mangan - Facilitation Centre 1

2. Emergency Operating Centre (EOC) Building- Facilitation Centre 2.

Haat Natak in Pakyong under SVEEP

Pakyong, April 3: In accordance with the guidelines issued by the Election Commission of India (ECI), the District Election Office Pakyong coordinated Haat Natak, an awareness play under the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) programme.

The initiative was executed by Block Level Officers of various Assembly Constituencies and performed by Pakyong Sikshit Berozgar Sachet Nari at Pakyong Haat Bazar, following the directives laid down by the Election Department.

The play aimed to engage and educate the audience about electoral participation as a component of the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) programme.

The primary objective of the play was to promote voter education and raise public

awareness about their rights and responsibilities to encourage democratic participation.

In order to achieve the highest voter turnout during the General Election 2024, efforts were made to raise awareness among all voter groups. Special attention was given to promoting Home Voting and encouraging newly eligible voters to participate in the electoral process.

Conducted in a public setting, the performance incorporated creative storytelling and interactive elements to convey essential messages on informed decision-making and the importance of each vote.

Among the officials present at the event were Mrs Merina Rai, Joint Secretary Election Department, Block Level Officers, Election Department staff and public.

Contd. from front page

Home Voting...

(PwD): 23

25-Upper Tadong

Senior citizens (85+ years of age): 25

Persons with Disability (PwD): 11

26-Arithang

Senior citizens (85+ years of age): 08

Persons with Disability (PwD): 05

27-Gangtok

Senior citizens (85+ years of age): 12

Persons with Disability (PwD): 02

28-Upper Burtuk

Senior citizens (85+ years of age): 20

Persons with Disability (PwD): 16

32-Sangha

Senior citizens (85+ years of age): 01

Persons with Disability (PwD): Nil

It was informed that the second phase of Home Voting will initiate from April 13 to April 16, wherein the Home Voters who were unable to vote in the first phase will be given a second chance to use their voting rights.

Similarly in Mangan district, a total of 28 voters have opted for home voting in the 3 Assembly Constituencies.

29-Kabi Lungchuk: 9 home voters

30-Djongu: 13 home voters

31-Lachen Mangan: 6 home voters.

Three trained teams consisting of Sector Magistrates, Micro-Observers, Polling Officers, Polling Agents, and Police personnel have been dispatched accordingly.

On second day, Mr HB Thapa, Nodal Officer for Postal Ballot and Revenue Officer at LRMD, oversaw the dispatch of materials for home voting in 30-Djongu constituency. Four postal ballot facilities were dispatched for Home Voting, catering to Assembly Constituency in the area.

On April 7, Home Voting for 30-Djongu constituency in Mangan district was carried out wherein two postal ballot facilities were sent out to assist with home voting covering both Assembly and Sikkim Parliamentary Constituencies. A dedicated team, including Sector Magistrates, Polling Teams, a videographer, police personnel and micro observer closely monitored the entire process at Djongu in Salim Pakel-Safo ward. They were briefed on ECI guidelines and instructed to ensure the process's integrity and accessibility. 86 year old Klockit Lepcha and 65 year old Phichi Lepcha (PwD) practiced their democratic right vote through Home Voting.

In Namchi district, 124 voters from Namchi District cast their votes through Home Voting facility for 7 Assembly Constituencies and 1 Parliamentary Constituency through postal ballots on the first day on April 4.

Mr Sidhi Man Gurung, 103 years old from Rameng-Nizraming Gram Panchayat Unit under 13 Namthang Rateypani Assembly Constituency was the oldest voter to cast his vote at his doorstep from the district.

The distribution of home polling materials to all the polling teams started at 7am from the Dispatched Centre established at Namchi Municipal Council. Mr Sunil Mothay, ADC (Dev) and also Nodal Officer for Postal Ballot briefed the teams about the materials that need to be ensured and arranged by the team before the poll process, and other aspects of home voting protocols, which have to be strictly compliance as per the guidelines of ECI.

Mrs Annapurna Alley DEO Namchi informed that there are a total of 255 voters who will cast their vote from home, with 170 being over 85 years old and 85 being Persons with Disabilities voters from across 7 Assembly Constituencies under Namchi District. She added that the highest number of Home Voters are from 14-Temi-Namphing AC where 62 voters would cast votes from home. Whereas, 11-Namchi-

Singhithang AC has the lowest number of Home Voters, with 20 individuals.

On April 5, 113 voters cast their votes through home voting. They participated in voting for 7 Assembly Constituencies and 1 Parliamentary Constituency from the comfort of their homes, out of which 237 have already cast their votes in two days starting from April 4.

In Gyalshing district, the first phase of home voting concluded with 172 home voters cast their vote till April 8 out of 178 Home voters. The Postal Ballots were submitted at Strong Room set up at Government Girls Senior Secondary School, Kyongsa.

Three Postal Ballot facilities were sent out to assist with home voting covering both Assembly and Sikkim Parliamentary Constituencies. A dedicated team, including Sector Magistrates, Polling Teams, a videographer, police personnel and micro observer closely monitored the entire process. They briefed on ECI guidelines and instructed to ensure integrity and accessibility of the provided facility while exercising their democratic right through Home Voting.

The first round of Home voting initiative is scheduled to continue till April 8, followed by the second round from April 13 to April 16.

In Pakyong, the first phase of Home Voting concluded with a

total number of 317 absentee voters aged 85+ years in the senior citizen category (AVSC), Persons with Disabilities (PwD) category (AVPD), utilising the Election Commission of India's (ECI) Home Voting service to exercise their voting rights from their residences.

Following the completion of Home Voting, the team, along with the Sector Officer, submitted the Postal Ballots (PB) to the respective Assistant Returning Officers (AROs) in the Strong Room located at Dikling Senior Secondary School.

The second phase of Home Voting is scheduled to take place from April 13 until April 16, 2024, for eligible voters.

In Soreng, the first round of Home Voting saw a total of 254 Home Voters cast their vote through postal ballots out of 266. The following are the constituency-wise data:

05-Rinchenpong AC: Senior citizens (85+)-24; Person with Disabilities (PWD)-56

06-Daramdin: Senior citizens (85+)- 36; Person with Disabilities (PWD)- 44

07-Soreng-Chakung: Senior citizens (85+)-29; Person with Disabilities (PWD)- 29

08-Salghari-Zoom: Senior citizens (85+)-14; Person with Disabilities (PWD)-22

It may be noted that, the second round of Home Voting will be scheduled for April 13 to April 16, 2024.

Commissioning of EVMs and VVPATs commences in Gangtok

Gangtok, April 5: The commissioning of EVMs (Electronic Voting Machines) and VVPATs (Voter Verified Paper Audit Trails) to be used in Assembly Constituencies for General Elections 2024, for Gangtok District was conducted at DIET College, Burtuk, today.

Mr D Anandan, Chief Electoral Officer, Sikkim and Mr Ragul K, OSD, Election Department inspected the

commissioning process.

Mr Tushar Nihare, District Election Officer Gangtok, Mr Milan Rai, ADC (Hq), Mr Rohan Agawane, ADC Gangtok, Mr GL Meena, SDM (Hq) Gangtok, Mr Roshan Subba, SDM Gangtok, Mr Suresh Rai, SDM, Rabdang and officials of District Election Office, Gangtok were present.

After the opening of strong room in DIET College, the commissioning of EVMs for

Assembly Constituencies was conducted in the presence of representatives of political parties.

In addition, as per the norms of Election Commission of India (ECI), mockpoll of EVMs and VVPATs were also carried out in the presence of various political parties to ensure a fair and impartial election. The objective was also to safeguard electoral integrity.

Home Voting Team dispatched

Gangtok, April 5: In view of the General Election, 2024 the Home Voting Team under Gangtok district was dispatched in the presence of representatives of various political parties at DIET Auditorium, Burtuk, today.

The dispatching was carried out in the presence of Mr Tushar G Nihare DEO Gangtok-cum-Returning Officer for 01- Sikkim Parliamentary Constituency and 32-Sangha Assembly Constituency, Mr Milan Rai ADC (Hq) Gangtok-cum-Returning Officer for 25- Upper Tadong and 16- Tumen-Lingi, Mr Rohan Agawane ADC Gangtok-cum-Returning Officer for 26- Arithang and 27-Gangtok, Mr Roshan Subba SDM Gangtok-cum-Returning Officer for 24-Martam-Rumtek, Mr GL Meena SDM Gangtok-cum-Returning Officer

for 23-Shyari and 28-Upper Burtuk, Mr Suresh Rai SDM Rabdang-cum-Returning Officer for 17-Khamdong-Singtam and Officers of District Election Office Gangtok.

The new Home Voting System is a feature introduced in the General Election 2024 by Election Commission of India (ECI), which allows senior citizens (85+) years of age and Persons with Disabilities (benchmark 40%) to vote from the comfort of their home. The Home Voting which commenced from today will conclude on April 8, 2024.

DEO Gangtok-cum-RO for 01- Sikkim Parliamentary Constituency and 32-Sangha Assembly Constituency, briefed the Home Voting Team to practice caution during the Home Voting process as it is taking place for the first time in the State. He also

directed the team to guard the trunk box at all times.

Furthermore, he explained the roles of Polling Officer 1, Polling Officer 2 and Micro Observer in detail to the respective team leaders of Home Voting Team. He concluded his briefing by conveying his best wishes to the team.

Mr Suresh Rai SDM Rabdang-cum-RO for 17-Khamdong-Singtam also briefed the Home Voting Team, wherein he explained the Home Voting process, roles of P1, P2 and Micro Observers. He gave demonstration on Annexure 10, Annexure 11, Annexure 12 and Form 13A in detail. He also explained the different types of ballot paper in detail.

DEO Pakyong convenes meeting with BLOs

Pakyong, April 3: Mr Tashi Chophel, District Election Officer Pakyong convened the meeting with all Booth Level Officers (BLOs) from the 5 Assembly Constituencies (ACs) of Pakyong District, 18-West Pendam AC, 19-Rhenock AC, 20-Chujachen AC, 21-Gnathang Machong AC, and 22-Namcheybung AC, at the Rurban Complex Pakyong, today.

The meeting focused on discussing various election-related tasks assigned to BLOs.

The DEO emphasised the importance of BLOs to comprehensively understand and execute their duties to ensure a free, fair, and transparent Home Voting process scheduled from April 4 to 8, 2024.

He stressed the necessity to prepare route maps in advance to efficiently guide the Home Voting Team.

Furthermore, he briefed the BLOs on the function of Voter Assistance Booths for senior citizens aged 80 and above, as well

as Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) voters, during the poll day.

Additionally, he highlighted the importance of distributing EPIC Cards to new voters to maximise participation on poll day. He also mentioned that polling in 50% of the Polling Booths will be webcast and monitored live by the DEO, CEO and ECI on poll day to ensure a transparent and fair electoral process.

Ms Anupa Tamling, ADC Pakyong, outlined the roles and responsibilities assigned to BLOs, specifically targeting the facilitation of accessible voting for senior citizens aged 80+ and above, as well as for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs), in accordance with ECI guidelines.

She detailed the operational phase of Home Voting, set to commence on April 4, 2024, emphasising that BLOs are to provide guidance to the Home Voting Team without directly involving them in the voting

process.

She reiterated the commitment to inclusive elections, urging BLOs to ensure all arrangements are in place for an accessible and smooth voting process for all eligible voters, including the setup of Facilitation Booths on polling day.

Ms Merina Rai, Joint Secretary Election Cell highlighted the BLOs' task to distribute Voter Information Slips and Pocket Voter Guides, along with the necessity of managing BLO registers to document voters' receipt. The BLOs need to submit these registers to the respective Assistant Returning Officers (AROs) three days prior to Polling Day.

Also the important materials related to Home Voting were handed over to the BLOs during the meeting.

Present during the meeting were Mr Mahendra Chettri SDM (Hq), Mr ST Lepcha, SDM Rongli and Mr S Subba SDM Pakyong.

Route march taken out in Namchi District

Namchi, April 7: Security forces took out special route march on April 6 to infuse confidence and a sense of safety among public and serve as a visible presence of law enforcement, ahead of the General Elections scheduled on April 19.

Dr Tshering Namgyal Gyatso, Sr Superintendent of Police (Namchi) led the forces in the march that began from

Salghari, Assangthang and Faresay areas.

Sub-Divisional Police Officer Jorethang, Mr Mingur Tempo Nadik, Police Inspector, Mr Bishan Rai, Central Armed Police Force (CAPF), Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) and Sikkim Police took part in the exercise. Also village patrolling was done.

Sr SP Namchi informed that

route march is carried out regularly throughout the district led by concerned SDPOs and SHOs with the aim to maintain law and order and ensure peace during the election. He further stated that route march in the villages is also going on daily basis by security forces.

Chief Secretary chairs meeting on Dr BR Ambedkar Jayanti

Gangtok, April 2: A meeting to discuss the state level celebration of the 133rd Birth Anniversary of Dr BR Ambedkar, which falls on April 14, 2024 was held in the Conference Hall of Tashiling Secretariat, Gangtok, today.

The meeting was chaired by Mr VB Pathak, Chief Secretary. Present in the meeting were Mr AK Singh, Director General of Police (DGP), Mr R Telang, ACS Home Department, Heads of various Departments (HoDs), Commissioner GMC, DC-cum-DEO Gangtok, Senior SP Gangtok, ACFO, Fire and Emergency Services, Mr Bikash Sunam, President of All Sikkim Scheduled Caste Welfare Association (ASSCWA), Mr Suresh Cintury, General Secretary, ASSCWA and others.

During the meeting, it was decided that Dr BR Ambedkar Jayanti would be celebrated at the premises of the State Legislative Assembly. It was further informed that keeping in mind the ongoing Model Code of Conduct (MCC) in relation to the upcoming General Elections-2024 to Lok Sabha and Sikkim Legislative Assembly, the programme would be conducted strictly adhering to MCC rules and regulations.

The meeting discussed in detail the event flow of the programme prepared by the Social Welfare Department. The Chief Secretary urged for effective coordination to make the event a success. Likewise, the heads of line departments put forth various recommendations and suggestions.

DEO Gangtok chairs meeting with Nodal Officers

Gangtok, April 3: Mr Tushar G Nihare District Election Officer Gangtok chaired a meeting with Nodal Officers for Facilitation Centres and Postal Voting Centre under Gangtok district at his office in DAC, today.

The meeting had the presence of Mr Rohan Agawane ADC Gangtok, Mr Milan Rai ADC (HQ) Gangtok, Mr GL Meena SDM (HQ), and Nodal Officers for Facilitation Centres (FC) and Postal Voting Centre (PVC) under Gangtok district and Officers of District Election Office Gangtok.

The DEO Gangtok interacted with the Nodal Officers about the new facilities such as Facilitation Centres and Postal Voting Centre in this election. Government employees on election duty can cast their vote in Facilitation Centres, wherein all the poll day norms are followed in strict manner. Another new feature

includes Postal Voting Centre wherein Absentee Voters on Essential Services (AVES) engaged in election duty can cast their votes in PVC.

During the meeting, wide variety of issues for the smooth electoral process in the Centres was discussed at length which included:

1. Installation of CCTV cameras in FCs and PVC
2. Arrangement of equipment in the Centres
3. Appointment of Attestation Officers
4. Set-up of Voting Compartment in FCs and PVC
5. Role of P1, P2 and P3 Officers
6. Regulation on electronic devices
7. List of Polling Stations where webcasting facility is activated.

GENERAL ELECTIONS 2024
(TO THE LOK SABHA AND SIKKIM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY)

Your ID card for Voting

Carry any one of the below approved Identity Document / ID proof

- Voter ID Card (EPIC)
- Aadhaar Card
- PAN Card
- Unique Disability ID (UDID) Card
- Service Identity Card
- Passbook with photo by Bank/Post Office
- Health Insurance Smart Card (M/o Labour)
- Driving License
- Passport
- Smart card issued by RGI under NPR
- Pension Document
- Official identity card issued to MPs/MLAs/MLCs
- MNREGA Job Card

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