

Lok Sabha Elections: DEO Ganderbal chairs meeting with Political Parties

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, MAR 18

The District Election Officer (DEO) Ganderbal, Shyambir today chaired a significant meeting with representatives from various political parties at the V.C Room, here.

During the session, DEO underscored the paramount importance of adhering to the highest ethical standards delineated in the Model Code of Conduct and other pertinent guidelines of the Election Commission of India (ECI). He emphasized the need for political parties to uphold democratic values and urged them to demonstrate integrity and responsibility, setting a positive precedent for a free, fair, and peaceful electoral



process.

Master trainers provided insights into essential aspects of Lok Sabha elections, including the process of lodging complaints as per MCC provisions, obtaining permissions for media advertisements, campaign vehicles, and other pertinent matters.

Discussions throughout

the meeting highlighted the collective commitment of all political stakeholders towards fostering an environment characterized by ethical conduct, accountability, and respect for democratic principles. DEO expressed confidence in the cooperation and adherence of all political parties to the outlined guidelines, thereby ensur-

ing a conducive environment for the smooth conduct of the Lok Sabha Elections.

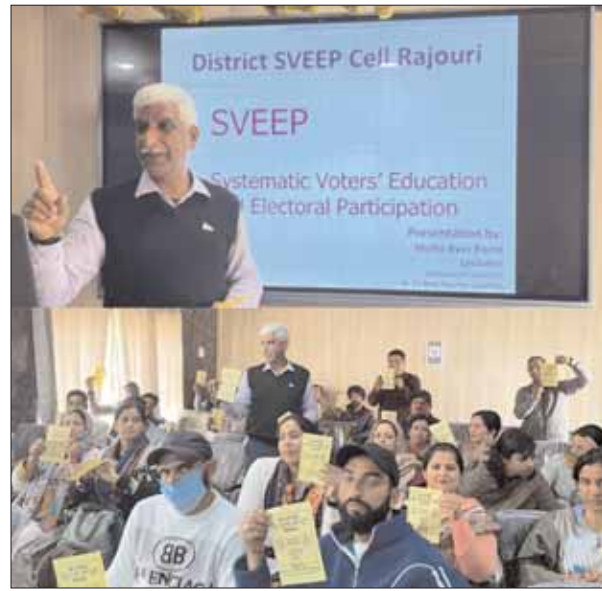
The meeting was attended by SSP Ganderbal, Sandeep Gupta; Additional District Development Commissioner, Mushtaq Ahmad Simnani; ASP Ganderbal, Deputy DEO alongside representatives of political parties.

Awareness Programme under SVEEP held at DIET Rajouri

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In an effort to promote voter awareness and participation, an awareness programme under the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) initiative was conducted today at DIET Rajouri, under the guidance of District Election Officer Rajouri, Om Parkash Bhagat.

The event saw active participation from approximately sixty teachers representing fifteen educational zones across the district, along with faculty members from DIET Rajouri.



Mr. Mohammad Ayaz Raina, a member of the District SVEEP Cell, delivered an insightful presentation on SVEEP, emphasizing the importance of

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mass participation of electorates in the upcoming elections to strengthen democracy.

Participants were encouraged to carry the message of SVEEP to their respective communities.

The programme concluded with the distribution of informative pamphlets among the attendees, reinforcing the message of ensuring no voter is left behind, in line with the mission to achieve maximum voter turnout.

Professor Mohammad Iqbal Raina, the District Nodal Officer (DNO) for SVEEP, supervised the programme to ensure its success.

RO-4 Udhampur PC chairs meeting with political parties

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Returning Officer-4 Udhampur Parliamentary Constituency, Dr Rakesh Minhas (DC Kathua), chaired a meeting today with representatives from various political parties in preparation for the upcoming Lok Sabha Elections, 2024.

The objective of the interactive session was to emphasize the strict adherence to the ethical standards outlined in the Model Code of Conduct and other pertinent guidelines established by the Election Commission of India (ECI).

The meeting provided a platform to sensitize political parties about the paramount importance of maintaining integrity, fairness, and transparency throughout the electoral process. Various pertinent issues were deliberated upon, including adherence to MCC provisions, obtaining permissions for media advertisements and campaign vehicles, as well as the ini-



tiation of candidate bank accounts as per the prescribed timeline.

In the discussions held, there was a unanimous acknowledgment of the collective responsibility of all political stakeholders in fostering an environment characterized by ethical conduct and respect for democratic principles.

Returning Officer dis-

closed that Single Window facility has been put in place for facilitating Political parties/ Contesting candidates to get timely permissions and relevant certificates from fully equipped Election Control Room where all facility have been put in place for smooth conduct of Election related activities.

On the occasion, rele-

vant material issued by ECI was also distributed among the representatives of political parties.

Dr Rakesh Minhas reiterated the pivotal role of political parties in upholding the democratic fabric of the nation and stressed the imperative of cooperation and adherence to the guidelines delineated in the Model Code of Conduct by the ECI. He urged all parties to exhibit unwavering integrity and responsibility, thus setting a positive precedent for a credible, fair, and peaceful electoral process.

Dr Rakesh Minhas expressed confidence in the cooperation and compliance of all political parties, fostering an environment conducive to the smooth conduct of the Lok Sabha Elections.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Commissioner, Ranjit Singh; Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Deputy DEO, Nagesh Singh, Nodal Officer MCMC & SVEEP Neeraj Bhargav and representatives from various political parties.

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The District Election Officer Reasi, Vishesh Mahajan, chaired a meeting with all nodal officers to discuss and review the preparedness for the upcoming elections.

Key points addressed included the establishment of a control room, maintenance of law and order, co-ordination for the movement of polling parties, provision of parking facilities, EVM training, and transport management systems.



DEO Vishesh Mahajan emphasized the significance of these aspects in ensuring the smooth conduct of the electoral process. He emphasized

that each polling station should be decorated, clean, well-equipped with electricity, water supply, and proper toilet facilities to ensure the convenience

of voters and polling staff. DEO Reasi urged all nodal officers to continue their concerted efforts to uphold the integrity and transparency of the electoral process in Reasi district.

ADDC Sukhdev Singh Samyal, ADC Kulbhushan Khajuria Nodal officer for MCC, PO Poshan Mohammad Anwar Bandy Nodal officer for training, ACD Pardeep Kumar Nodal officer for logistics, Dy. DEO Rakesh Kumar, DIO Nasir Ahmed Nodal officer for SVEEP and other Nodal officers were present in the meeting.

DEO Ramban bolsters official machinery for seamless Lok Sabha Election conduct, MCC implementation

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In view of the ensuing Lok Sabha Election 2024, District Election Officer, Ramban, Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary chaired a meeting of all nodal officers to assess the progress, focused on ensuring proper arrangements at polling booths, adherence to Election Commission guidelines and maximizing voter participation.

ADC, Varunjeet Singh Charak, ARO Ramban S. Harpal Singh, and Nodal Officers of various committees were present on the occasion.

The DEO issued necessary directions to all the nodal officers for the enforcement of the Model



Code of Conduct to maintain the sanctity of the electoral process. The circular, directed to all district officers and officials, outlines essential measures to ensure a level playing field for all political entities.

Reviewing the action taken by the nodal officers regarding their respective assignments/ committees, the DEO directed the nodal officers to be well-prepared for their respective roles and responsibilities during the election.

Their commitment to upholding electoral laws, regulations, and ethical standards was stressed to ensure the integrity and fairness of the electoral process.

DEO stressed the need to fulfill basic requirements at all polling stations and also directed the concerned to launch awareness campaigns to encourage maximum voting turnout.

In Ramban district, there are a total of 348 polling stations. The Lok Sabha Elections for 2024 are set to take place on April 19, 2024, within the district as part of Parliamentary Constituency 04 Udhampur, in the first phase of the elections. The counting of votes is scheduled for June 4, 2024.

DM Ramban directs all gun license holders to deposit weapons ahead of Lok Sabha Elections

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The District Magistrate/ District Election Officer (DM/DEO) Ramban, Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary directed all licensed arms holders to deposit their arms at the nearest police stations within 07 days in view of Lok Sabha polls-

2024. The District Magistrate asked all the civilians and forces personnel (retired and serving) presently residing within the territorial jurisdiction of District Ramban and who are in possession of arms and ammunition on a valid arms licence shall deposit their arms and ammunition in the concerned po-

lice stations within a period of seven days from the date of issuance of the order.

This measure is for preventive law to ensure conduct of peaceful, free and fair polls during the General Election to Lok Sabha-2024.

In a statement, the Additional District Magistrate said that the prohibitory

orders under Section 144 of the CrPC had come into force with effect from March 16, as per the Election Commission of India (ECI)'s Model Code of Conduct.

Further, the order clarifies that there shall be a complete prohibition on issuance of new arms licence till the culmination of election process.

district, and assembly-level master trainers ensure the competency of election personnel in carrying out their duties effectively, he added.

The DEO assured that minimum facilities such as ramps, drinking water, furniture, electricity, and toilets are provided across all polling stations to facilitate a seamless voting experience for voters. Furthermore, he said that sufficient EVMs and VVPATs are available, ensuring the integrity and transparency of the electoral process.

Media persons were also sensitized to use the print and electric media for advertisement only after approval from MCMC committees, adhering to MCC guidelines of ECI. They were also asked to restrain themselves from Paid news without following ECI guidelines.

Returning Officer Udhampur PC held interactive session with Flying Squad teams

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The Returning Officer for the Udhampur Parliamentary Constituency, Dr Rakesh Minhas (DC Kathua) chaired a meeting today with the Flying Squad Teams assigned for the upcoming Lok Sabha Elections-2024.

The primary objective of the session was to acquaint the teams with their roles, responsibilities, and the adherence to the stringent ethical standards mandated by the Election Commission of India (ECI).

During the meeting, Mr. Sanjay Sharma emphasized the pivotal role of the Flying Squad Teams in ensuring the integrity and fairness of the electoral process. He underscored the importance of impartiality, diligence, and adherence to the Model Code of Conduct in all their activities.

The discussions encompassed various aspects, including the identification and monitoring of suspicious activities related to electoral malpractices, enforcement of election-related laws, and swift action against any violations detected. Additionally, the teams were briefed on the proper procedures for handling complaints and reporting incidents promptly to the concerned authorities.

Dr Rakesh Minhas reiterated the significance of upholding the demo-



cratic principles and ensuring a level playing field for all candidates and political parties. He urged the Flying Squad Teams to discharge their duties with utmost diligence and impartiality, thereby contributing to the conduct of free, fair, and transparent elections.

The session also witness the clarification of queries or concerns raised by the Flying Squad Teams.

The Returning Officer expressed

confidence in the dedication of the Flying Squad Teams and urged them to perform their duties diligently to uphold the sanctity of the electoral process.

The meeting was attended by senior officials, including SSP Kathua Shivdeep Singh Jamwal, ADC Ranjit Singh, ASP Kathua, ACR Kathua, SDM Hiranagar, Dy DEO Kathua, DIO Kathua and other concerned officers.

Distt Election Officer Rajouri addresses press briefing regarding preparations for Lok Sabha Elections

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District Election Officer Rajouri, Om Prakash Bhagat, convened a comprehensive press briefing to outline the preparedness and arrangements for the forthcoming Lok Sabha Elections 2024. With the Election Commission of India (ECI) having recently announced the schedule for the elections, the district is gearing up to facilitate a smooth and fair electoral process.

The DEO emphasized the importance of all political parties and contesting candidates adhering to the Model Code of Conduct throughout the electoral process.

He also informed that District Rajouri comprises two Parliamentary Constituencies - Jammu and



Anantnag-Rajouri, encompassing a total of five Assembly Constituencies including Nowshera, Rajouri, Budhal, Thanamandi and Kalakote-Sudermani.

The district boasts a total population of 642,415 as per the 2011 Census, with 484,632 electors comprising male, female, and third gender voters. Notably, the district exhibits a commendable inclusion effort, with 3,708 PWD electors.

The District Election Officer further briefed that

the district has a robust polling infrastructure comprising 680 polling stations across urban and rural areas, with 350 stations planned for webcasting and additional provisions for shadow areas, has been established. Moreover, there are 15 model polling stations.

Adequate human resources have been mobilized, including 5 AROs, 680 BLOs, 27 ZOs, and 71 Sector Officers. Comprehensive training programs conducted by state, dis-