

Samba DC chairs meeting on election preparedness



HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, MAR 18

With the implementation of Model Code of Conduct, a meeting regarding election preparedness was convened today by the Deputy Commissioner Samba, Abhishek Sharma with all Nodal officers to review the preparedness of the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections.

Chairing the meeting, the DC asked all to render exemplary services with dedication and devotion to maintain peace and order in District Samba.

DC informed that Sector Magistrates, FST, VST, SST

and VVT have already been deployed round the clock and urged them to monitor any possible violation of MCC ahead of the Election to the Lok Sabha.

He also urged the team of EEMC (Election Expenditure Monitoring Cell) to be abreast with the legal framework, monitoring and enforcement mechanisms and the reporting requirements which is a crucial aspect of ensuring transparency and accountability in the electoral process.

He also directed the Media Certification and Monitoring Cell to carry out social media monitoring along with paid news and

other advertisements in print and electronic media.

The DC further emphasized about the C-vigil investigator app" which is an online application for citizens to report on model code of conduct violations during the election period. However, the Flying Squads and Static Surveillance Teams will have to submit all their seizures of cash and materials in ESMS (Election Seizure Management System) app which would provide real-time data of seizures, added the DC.

Furthermore, he stressed on the process of seizure of items while adding that videography has to be done

during seizure and also briefed on steps to be taken after seizure of illegal items. He also stressed on checking of warehouses, Wine shop etc and urged the officers from Tax and Excise to carry out checking drives with the Police and to ensure closure of illegally running wine shops.

The DC also said that Vulnerability mapping has to be done as soon as possible.

ADC Suresh C. Sharma, GM DIC (Nodal Officer MCC) Gurpreet Singh, Deputy DEO Harvinder Singh and DIO (Nodal Officer MCMC) Ashiq Rafiq Malik and other employees attended the meeting.

DEO Bandipora addresses press conference, briefs media regarding Election Schedule

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In view of General Elections to Lok Sabha-2024 scheduled to be held on 20th May 2024 in Bandipora district being part of the Baramulla -1 Parliamentary Constituency, the District Election Officer (DEO) Bandipora, Shakeel ul Rehman today addressed a press conference at Mini Secretariat, here today.

The DEO said that all the necessary circulars detailing the enforcement of the Model Code of Conduct to maintain the sanctity of Electoral Process have been issued.

He said that Bandipora district as part of the Baramulla-1 Parliamentary Constituency has 3 assembly segments including 14-Sonawari, 15-Bandipora



and 16 Gurez comprising of a total of 312 polling stations with 137 polling stations in 14-Sonawari, 144 polling stations in 15-Bandipora and 31 polling stations in 16-Gurez with assured minimum facility available at all polling stations across the District.

He revealed that the Gazette Notification will be issued on 26th of April, 2024 for Baramulla-1 Parliamentary Constituency.

The DEO said that 3rd May, 2024 is the last date for filling Nominations and

on 4th May, 2024 scrutiny of Nomination shall be held while as 06th May, 2024 is the last date for withdrawal of candidature.

He said 20th May is the poll date for Baramulla -1 Parliamentary Constituency and counting of votes shall be held on 4th of June 2024.

The DEO informed that Bandipora has 258675 Electors as on 18th of March 2024 with 131761 Males, 126908 females and 06 TGs.

Giving details regarding

SVEEP activities, the DEO said that 213 camps were conducted during special Summary revision, in which 3743 new voters were added.

He also highlighted various activities conducted under SVEEP including Screening of documentary on Electoral participations, Youth Rally for generating Awareness about Voter Registration, Booth Level Camps for demonstrating Saksham application for PwD Voters and involving youth icons for generating voter awareness.

The DEO also mentions the use of Election related IT platforms, including cVIGIL, ENCORE, SUVIDHA, ERONET, NGRS portal, etc.

During the press briefing, the DEO/DC was accompanied by ADC, Dy-DEO, DIO and other concerned officials.

DEO Samba chairs meeting with Political Parties ahead of Lok Sabha Elections



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District Election Officer, Samba, Abhishek Sharma today convened a crucial meeting with representatives from various political parties in preparation for the forthcoming Lok Sabha Elections in 2024.

The primary objective of the meeting was to emphasize on the significance of upholding the highest ethical standards as outlined in the Model Code of Conduct and other relevant guidelines established by

the Election Commission of India (ECI).

Key discussions during the session included issues such as adherence to MCC provisions, obtaining permissions for media advertisements and campaign logistics, as well as initiating candidate bank accounts in accordance with stipulated timelines.

The meeting served as a platform to sensitize political parties about the imperative nature of maintaining integrity, fairness, and transparency throughout the electoral process. It emphasized the

collective commitment of all stakeholders towards fostering an environment characterized by ethical conduct and accountability.

The DEO reiterated the pivotal role of political parties in upholding the democratic ethos of the nation and urged cooperation and adherence to the guidelines set forth by the ECI. The meeting served as a reaffirmation of the collective commitment towards ensuring a democratic electoral process characterized by integrity, transparency, and ethical

conduct.

He expressed confidence in the cooperation and adherence of all political parties to the guidelines outlined, thereby fostering a conducive environment for the smooth conduct of the Lok Sabha Elections.

Among the attendees were distinguished officials including SSP Vinay Sharma, ADC Suresh Sharma, GM DIC Gurpreet Singh, Deputy DEO Harvinder Singh, DIO Ashiq Rafiq Malik, and representatives from various political parties.

Lok Sabha Elections: DEO Bandipora bans advertisements at the cost of public exchequer

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In terms of the instructions of Election Commission of India, vide No. 437/6/ INST/ ECI/ FUNCT/ MCC/ 2024 (ADVERTISEMENTS) dated 2nd January, 2024 the District Magistrate/ District Election Officer (DM/ DEO) Bandipora, Shakeel ul Rehman today ordered

ban on advertisements at the cost of public exchequer.

An Order No. 37-DEO/Bpr of 2024 Dated: 18-03-2024, reads that no advertisements shall be issued in electronic and print media highlighting the achievements of the Govt. at the cost of public exchequer. If any advertisement has already been released for telecast/ broadcast or publication in the print me-

dia, it shall be ensured that the telecast/ broadcast of such advertisements on electronic media is stopped forthwith and that no such advertisement is published in any newspapers, magazines, etc., i.e. in print media, from the date of announcement and it shall be immediately withdrawn.

The order further clarifies that these instructions shall remain in force till the culmination of General

Elections to Lok Sabha-2024.

The order directs All District/Sectoral Officers of District Bandipora to take note of these instructions for immediate necessary action.

Additional District Magistrate, Bandipora, and District Information Officer, Bandipora, shall ensure implementation of these instructions in letter and spirit.

DEO Bandipora, holds meet with political party representatives

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The District Election Officer (DEO) Bandipora, Shakeel ul Rehman on Monday convened a meeting of political party representatives to discuss various measures under Model Code of Conduct (MCC) to ensure fair and transparent elections in the district.

The meeting was attended by Nodal Officer MCC Umar Shafi Pandit, Dy DEO Mohammad Rafeeq Bhat, ARO Bandipora Shabir Ahmad wani, ARO Sumbal Amir Choudhary, Nodal Officer Expenditure Monitoring Sheikh Aabid Manzoor, Nodal Officer MCMC Dr. Naseer Ahmad, DLMT, representatives of different political



parties including Bharatiya Janta Party, Congress, DPAP, JKAP, JKNC, JKNPF, AIP, NYP, PDP, AAP and other concerned.

The DEO on the occasion said that district ad-

ministration has made all the necessary preparations to conduct the upcoming parliamentary polls in a free, fair and transparent manner.

He stressed strict en-

forcement of the model code of conduct across the district.

The DEO emphasized maintaining peace and order during the electoral process and urged political parties to adhere to the model code of conduct.

He stressed the importance of maintaining a peaceful and conducive environment for campaigning and urged political parties to refrain from engaging in any activities that could incite violence or violate the model code of conduct.

Discussions were also held on the importance of ethical campaigning practices, including the dissemination of accurate information and refraining from spreading misinformation or engaging in negative campaigning.

Training for polling staff held in Reasi

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In order to equip the polling staff about their roles, duties and necessary guidelines of Election Commission of India to be followed during Lok Sabha Election in segments, Nodal Officer for Training, Mohammad Anwar Bandy, (District Programme Officer ICDS, Reasi) presided over a training session for



polling staff under the overall supervision of the District Election Officer, Reasi

Vishesh Mahajan. During the training, collection of polling material,

collection and installation of EVMs, setting up of polling stations and commencement of polls was thoroughly discussed with the trainees.

The process of sealing, installation and functioning of the EVMs was also demonstrated by the master trainers besides the procedure to be followed in case of challenge vote, refuse vote and vote under declaration was also briefed to the trainees.

DEO Bandipora briefs Banks regarding monitoring of Election Expenditure

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The District Election Officer (DEO) Bandipora, Shakeel ul Rehman on Monday convened a meeting with representatives of various banks to discuss and coordinate efforts for the smooth conduct of the upcoming electoral process for Lok Sabha Election-2024.

Nodal Officer MCC/ADC Umar Shafi Pandit, Dy-DEO Mohammad Rafeeq Bhat, Nodal Officer Expenditure Monitoring Committee/ DTO Bandipora, Sheikh Aabid Manzoor, Member Expenditure Monitoring Committee/ DIO Bandipora Dr. Naseer Ahmad, LDM Bandipora and Branch Heads of all Banks operating in the district were also present on the occasion.

The DEO on the occasion emphasized the importance of maintaining fi-



nancial integrity throughout the electoral process and directed Banks to adhere strictly to guidelines and procedures of Election Commission of India to prevent any instances of malpractice or misuse of funds.

He highlighted the role of banks in election expenditure monitoring and asked them to monitor un-

usual transactions and suspicious transactions to ensure elections are held in a fair manner.

The DEO directed the banks operating in the district to open dedicated counters for election purposes to facilitate prompt service to the candidates.

Nodal Officer Expenditure monitoring, Sheikh Abid Manzoor also high-

lighted the role of banks in expenditure monitoring and asked the concerned officers of banks to submit daily reports to the District Election Office regarding the suspicious withdrawal of cash during elections.

He asked them to monitor unusual and suspicious cash withdrawal or deposit of cash in a bank exceeding Rs. one lac and unusual transfer of amount through RTGS during the election process.

He also asked the bank heads to monitor cash deposit and withdrawal from bank accounts of political parties besides monitoring online and digital transactions.

The Nodal Officer Expenditure Monitoring Committee also stressed on banks to ensure the following of necessary SOPs for transporting Cash by ATM Vans and ensure that the cash vans shall not under any circumstances transport cash of any third party.

PM Modi holds roadshow in Coimbatore; pays tributes to victims of 1998 bomb blast

COIMBATORE (TAMIL NADU),

MARCH 18: Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a roadshow here on Monday, amid non-stop chants of 'Modi, Modi' by BJP workers and he paid floral tributes to the portraits of 58 people killed here in the 1998 serial bomb blast.

The roadshow, amid tight police security, comes days after the Madras High Court green-flagged the event, directing the police to allow it with reasonable conditions. The police had initially refused permission citing reasons, including the "communally sensitive" nature of the area, and the ongoing public exams in schools.

As Modi began his roadshow in an open, flower-decked vehicle, people who gathered on both sides of the road showered flower petals on him, chanted slogans hailing him. While traditional music was



played to welcome him, several of them danced and waved at him enthusiastically.

This is the first time such a road show, on a grand scale, has been organised by BJP in Tamil Nadu, which witnessed a good turnout.

"Meendum Modi, Vendum Modi," (Once again Modi, we want Modi) was one of the slogans raised by BJP supporters. Many people who lined up on the roads held lotus flowers in their hands to welcome Modi and raised "Bharat

Mata Ki Jai" slogans.

Clad in a spotless white kurta, Modi sported a colourful BJP shawl and often raised both his hands to wave at people who took vantage positions in buildings to take a glimpse of him.

All along the 2.5 km route, from Saibaba Colony to RS Puram in downtown Coimbatore, Modi's vehicle slowly made its way while people followed him on the service lanes.

At the end of the road show, Modi paid floral tributes to the portraits of peo-

ple who were killed in the bomb blast that rocked this textile city in 1998, hours before iconic BJP leader LK Advani was to address a poll meeting on February 14 that year. Fifty-eight people were killed and over a 100 injured. The portraits were placed in a small, makeshift memorial square.

The BJP flags fluttered against the backdrop of colourful lights and festoons and the Prime Minister waved and cheered saffron party workers who were waiting for over an hour to take a look at him. Performances of folk dance and traditional music energised the cadres who sang songs and danced.

This is the first time Modi has held a roadshow here and also this is the first political engagement of the PM following announcement of schedule for the Lok Sabha polls by the Election Commission.