

CEO NAGALAND BRIEFS ON FORTHCOMING GENERAL ELECTIONS

Addressing the media persons at the Media Cell, CEO Office on Wednesday (13th February, 2018) CEO, Abhijit Sinha, IAS said the Election campaigning by the Political Party and candidate should be stopped 48 hours ahead of the close of the poll, that is 4:00 PM on 25th Feb 2018.

He informed that all the Star Campaigners and others who are not from the constituency should leave the constituency before 4:00 PM on 25th Feb 2018. The print and electronic media cannot carry advertisement of any type of the Political Parties and Candidates in any manner after the 4:00 PM on 25th Feb 2018.

CEO stated that in order to facilitate the voters to know the location of their polling stations and other details, Voter Slip bearing the photo of the elector is being distributed to all enrolled voters by the DEOs through the BLOs. The design and format of the Photo Voter Slip, which is half of A4 size paper, have also been substantially improved to enhance its utility and effectiveness in voter identification, awareness and guidance and additional information along with polling station Nazri Naksha (Map) have been provided on the reverse of the slip.

Proxy voting is illegal. CEO cautioned that Neither the Head of the family nor the Village Council are allowed to vote for others. The Presiding Officers and the Polling parties are directed not to allow such malpractices in their assigned Polling Stations. If such malpractices are detected the votes polled at that Polling Station will become null and void and action will be initiated against the defaulter as well as the Polling Officials.

Sinha said Persons authorized by the Election Commission only are allowed to enter the Polling Station also one or two authorized persons may be allowed for a short period at a time. The persons entering the polling station should not go near the voting compartment nor interfere in the polling process so that secrecy of voting is maintained.

As desired by the ECI, all efforts are being made to ensure Assured Minimum Facilities such as Electricity, Drinking Water, Toilets, Ramp etc. to all the 2196 Polling Stations across the State. CEO said when we started about 30 % polling stations were without electricity and many without toilet and drinking water. All the departments have worked tirelessly and now only 3% of Polling Stations are without electricity, 4% without toilet, 5% without drinking water and we plan to finish it in three to four days, also rechargeable lamps will be provided in polling stations where villages are not electrified, CEO said.

Several initiatives have been taken to increase the electoral participation of the voters as well as encourage ethical and informed voting. Some of the initiatives are: Facilitation of PwD voters, octogenarian and older voters, pregnant women voters, women voters with babies in arms on poll day. Arrangement of wheelchairs for use by locomotor disabled voters across the state. Services of State and District Icons are being taken for disseminating Ethical and Informed Voting messages across the state. Street Plays on Turnout, Ethical and Informed Voting has been held in some pockets of the State. Jingles have been regularly

played on the radio on ethical and informed voting and Regular advertisements have come out in the print media on ethical and informed voting.

CEO further informed that a Voter Guide brochure containing information on date and time of poll, contact details of the BLOs, important websites, helpline numbers, documents required for identification, how to vote, EVM & VVPAT besides other important information including the Do's and Don'ts for voters at the polling station have been printed in Nagamese and are being distributed to every household along with the Photo Voter Slips by the BLOs. The Voter Guide will be distributed to 4,20,000 households across the State.

The mobile application has been launched with the objective to provide voter facilitation services. The App is specifically developed to help a voter to verify his voter ID, locate Polling Stations, download Electoral Roll in pdf, Candidate affidavits, Election Expenses and much more. The App is made available for download in the Google Play Store and the website of the Chief Electoral Officer, www.ceonagaland.nic.in.

CEO said with a view to encourage Women participation in the Electoral Process the ECI has over the years impressed upon forming all Women Polling Teams for Polling duties. In the Legislative Assembly Election 2013, there were 76 numbers of All Women Polling Teams out of 2024 Polling Stations (i.e., 3.75%). However, in the ensuing Legislative Assembly Election 2018, there are going to be 177 All Women Polling Teams out of 2156 Polling Station (i.e., 8%) across all the 12 Election Districts. District-wise break up of all Women Polling Stations are; Dimapur – 26, Peren – 11, Kohima – 9, Pughoboto – 7, Phek – 5, Mokokchung – 32, Zunheboto, – 6, Wokha – 20, Mon – 30, Longleng – 16, Tuensang – 15.

(Media Cell, CEO Nagaland)