

Samba Petrol Pump owners asked for strict MCC compliance during elections

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SAMBA: District Election Officer Samba convened a crucial meeting on Tuesday to discuss the adherence of Model Code of Conduct (MCC) by petrol pump owners during the ongoing election period. The meeting was attended by representatives of all 38 petrol pumps in the district, along with key officials from various departments.

The District Election Officer emphasized the necessity of maintaining an apolitical stance during the enforcement of the MCC. To this end, several directives were issued to petrol pump owners to ensure a fair and



District Election Officer Samba chairing a meeting on Tuesday.

transparent election process.

Prohibition on Free Fuel: Petrol pumps have been strictly prohibited from pro-

viding free fuel to vehicles associated with any political party. This measure aims to prevent any undue influence

on the election process and ensure a level playing field for all parties. Apolitical Conduct: All petrol pumps must operate without displaying any political party posters, flags, or promotional materials on their premises.

Adequate Fuel Supply: Petrol pump owners were instructed to ensure a sufficient supply of fuel for vehicles designated for election duties, including those used by polling parties, to facilitate the smooth and uninterrupted conduct of election activ-

ities.

Voter Awareness Initiatives: Petrol pump owners were encouraged to actively collaborate with the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) nodal officer and the Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO) in voter awareness campaigns. This includes displaying voter awareness posters and playing jingles to encourage voter participation.

Traffic Rule Enforcement: The ARTO was directed to set up checkpoints and conduct random checks to enforce traffic rules, including ensuring that two-wheeler riders wear helmets. Furthermore, petrol pumps were instructed not to dispense fuel to two-wheeler riders who are not wearing helmets, reinforcing the commitment to road safety during the election period.

These directives reflect the commitment of the District Election Office, Samba, to uphold the principles of a free and fair election process while promoting voter awareness and road safety.

DEO flags off cyclethon rally to promote voter awareness under SVEEP in Udhampur



District Election Officer Udhampur, Saloni Rai flagging off a cyclethon rally on Tuesday.

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UDHAMPUR: To raise voter awareness among the common masses ahead of the upcoming General Assembly Elections 2024, District Election Officer Udhampur, Saloni Rai, flagged off a cyclethon rally from the DC Office Complex, here on Tuesday.

The cyclethon rally witnessed enthusiastic participation from a diverse group, including students, officers, and local residents. Participants cycled through different parts of the city, carrying banners and placards emphasizing the significance of voting and urging every eligible citizen to exercise their franchise in the forthcoming elections.

The rally commenced from the DC Office Complex and covered several key locations, including Slatia Chowk, Court Road, Salian Talab, Gole Market etc and culminated back at the DC Office Udhampur.

While addressing the participants, the DEO highlighted the pivotal role that each vote plays in shaping the future of the nation. She encouraged the youth to take the lead in fostering a culture of informed and responsible voting. The DEO further informed that this initiative is part of a series of activities under the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation program by the Election

Commission of India. The program aims to boost voter turnout and ensure an inclusive and participative electoral process.

The event witnessed the active participation of Additional District Development Commissioner Rajinder Singh, Additional Deputy Commissioner Prem Singh, Chief Executive Officer PDA, Devendra Singh Bhanu, Assistant Commissioner Development Dr. Ranjit Singh Kotwal, SDM Rannagar Rafiq Ahmad Jara, Nodal Officer SVEEP Dr. Preeti Sharma, District Information Officer Rajinder Digra along with other officers, staff members, students and stakeholders.

DEO Poonch chairs security review meeting



DEO Poonch Vikas Kundal chairing a high-level security review meeting on Tuesday.

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POONCH: District Election Officer (DEO) Poonch Vikas Kundal on Tuesday chaired a high-level meeting with senior officials from the Army and police to review security measures taken for the upcoming Assembly elections. The meeting was attended by the Senior Superintendent of Police, officials from the BSF, Army, and the Additional Deputy Commissioner. The focus was on ensuring incident-free elections in this sensitive border district. SSP Muntaz Ahmed delivered a detailed presentation on the current security environment, law enforcement readiness, and election preparedness in anticipation of the Assembly elections.

Army and paramilitary forces officials briefed the DEO on the security scenario within the district and along the Line of Control (LoC). The DEO stressed the importance of robust security arrangements on key roads connecting Poonch district, such as Mughal Road and BG-Rajouri Road, ensuring high-level checking with minimal inconvenience to commuters. He also emphasized the need for additional security at polling stations along the LoC and throughout the district. Additionally, DEO Vikas Kundal highlighted the readiness of bunkers constructed along the LoC as alternative polling stations in case of untoward incidents. Senior officials

from the Army and paramilitary forces provided the DEO with an overview of their action plans for the upcoming elections. The Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Poonch was instructed to coordinate closely with security agencies to provide ambulances and other necessary medical services in emergencies. The discussions emphasized coordinated strategies for maintaining law and order, with a particular focus on intensifying anti-terror operations, disrupting Over Ground Worker (OGW) networks, and strengthening the anti-infiltration grid. The officials underscored the importance of synergy among security forces to ensure the smooth conduct of the elections.

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RAJOURI: On the directions of District Election Officer Abhishek Sharma, a series of voter awareness programs were organised by District Nodal Officers, Bishamber Dass across district Rajouri to enhance voter participation in the upcoming Assembly Election.

As part of these initiatives, Nodal Officer SVEEP AC-85 Rakesh Kumar Sharma, along with his team, on Tuesday organized an awareness program at Government High School Palam Rajouri and surrounding areas of Palam village. About 200

students and staff participated, learning about the voting process and the significance of every vote. Participants also pledged to mobilize their communities, ensuring no voter is left out.

The day's events included a voter awareness rally, sports activities, and a door-to-door campaign. At BHSS Rajouri, an outreach session for young and first-time voters attracted about 150 participants, who committed to engaging in the electoral process.

Simultaneously, an EVM Awareness and Training Camp was held at GDC

Budhal under the supervision of Dil Mir (ADC Koteranka), Returning Officer for Assembly Constituency 86-Budhal (ST). The camp, organized in collaboration with the College's Electoral Literacy Club and led by Prof. Tahir Nadeem, aimed to improve electoral literacy through hands-on training on Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs), provided by Assembly Level Master Trainer (ALMT) Abdul Razaq.

To further engage the youth, a volleyball tournament was organized at Government High School Badhal, led by Headmaster

Madan Lal Sharma and the SVEEP Cell.

Similarly, a volleyball match at Govt. High School Dharamsal and cultural activities at GMS Badhanoo involved students and staff, highlighting the importance of voting.

A signature campaign and an awareness rally were also organised at Girls High School Kalakote and GHSS Channi Prat, under the guidance of Nodal Officer SVEEP AC-83 Kalakote Babu Singh.

SVEEP activities were also held in different parts of AC 87-Thannamandi, focusing on voter education

and electoral literacy. Notable events included a Quiz Competition at Boys Middle School Darhal, led by SVEEP team member Dr. Toseef Ahmed Malik, and a Skit at Higher Secondary School Manjakot, both designed to instill democratic values and emphasize the importance of voting.

These initiatives, conducted under the guidance of Nodal Officer SVEEP AC 87-Thannamandi Dr Ather Aziz Raina, demonstrates the SVEEP team's commitment to fostering a culture of democratic participation and strengthening democracy in Rajouri.

DEO Ganderbal reviews preparations for AMF at polling stations



DEO Ganderbal, Shyambir chairing a meeting on Tuesday.

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GANDERBAL: As part of the preparations for the Assembly Elections 2024, the District Election Officer (DEO) Ganderbal, Shyambir on Tuesday chaired a meeting to assess the status of Assured Minimum Facilities (AMF) at all polling stations within the district.

At the outset, the DEO reviewed the current status of AMF at polling stations including seating arrangements considering weather conditions and overall infrastructure readiness.

Key issues discussed and actions planned during the meeting included ensuring Assured Minimum Facilities at all polling stations like ramps, electricity, toilet facility, water supply, wheelchairs, furniture and sanitation to be kept in place to facilitate accessible and inclusive elections.

The Nodal Officer for AMF was directed to

ensure that all necessary facilities are in place well before polling day and Polling stations should prominently display basic information to assist voters. Additionally, special polling stations will be set up, including Women, PwD, Youth Manned, Green, Unique and Model Polling Stations, each manned and supervised by designated officers. He emphasized the need for polling stations to be accessible, particularly for women, elderly voters, and persons with special abilities, ensuring that no one is left behind in the electoral process. The DEO urged all involved officials to prioritize these preparations, ensuring that the electoral process is conducted smoothly and efficiently in the district.

The meeting was attended by DyDEO, Abid Iqbal Malik; Assistant Commissioner Development, Dr. Bashir Ahmad; Executive Engineer KDPCL, CEO and other officials.

Police Observer Dharamvir inspects Polling Stations in Sub Division Gandoh

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DODA: Dharamvir, the Police Observer for Assembly Constituency (AC) 51-Bhaderwah, 52- Doda and 53- Doda west conducted a thorough inspection of Polling Stations and facilities in the region on Tuesday.

The visit aimed to ensure the implementation of Assured Minimum Facilities (AMF) and to assess the security measures in place ahead of the upcoming elections.

During his visit, Police Observer Dharamvir inspected the Polling station at Govt. Higher Secondary School Kilhotran in Sub Division Gandoh. The Police Observer also evaluated the AMF provisions at different polling Stations and examined the intermediate Strong room to ensure the security of election material.