

Lok Sabha Elections: DEO Ganderbal discusses preparedness with Nodal Officers

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, APR 24

In preparation for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, the District Election Officer (DEO) Ganderbal, Shyambir today conducted a detailed meeting with designated Nodal Officers to review and strengthen the district's election readiness.

During the meeting, Assistant Returning Officers (AROs) and Nodal Officers updated the DEO on the current status of preparations, including logistics, transportation of polling staff and Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs), voter education, and facilities at polling stations.

Specific focus was placed on manpower, training management, expenditure monitoring, and the arrangement at Dispatch and Reception centers, among others.

The DEO emphasized the importance of adhering strictly to the Election Commission of India's guidelines and took a first-hand appraisal of various critical aspects and activities necessary for the smooth conduct of the elections.



He directed the Nodal Officer for AMF/CEO to ensure Assured Minimum Facilities at all polling booths to accommodate electorates, polling staff, and security personnel effectively. A special focus was put on enhancing Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) activities.

The Nodal Officer for SVEEP was tasked with expanding outreach through collaboration with Self-Help Groups, ASHAs, and Anganwadi Workers to en-

sure ground-level communication is effective.

College HODs were urged to engage students and staff in innovative activities under the SVEEP to boost voter awareness and participation. The DEO also instructed all officers to ensure that all logistical and operational plans are in place to facilitate electorates, polling staff and the security personnel deployed for electoral duties on the Election Day.

He stressed the need for all designated Nodal offi-

cers to maintain close cooperation and coordination with executing departments to ensure a transparent and peaceful election.

The meeting saw the attendance of SSP Ganderbal, Sandeep Gupta; Additional District Development Commissioner, Mushtaq Ahmad Simnani; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Gulzar Ahmad; Dy DEO, ACR, SDM Kangan, and other key district officers and officials, all committed to delivering a free and fair electoral process.

LS Elections: DEO Baramulla visits Gulmarg AC to ensure AMFs at all polling stations

BARAMULLA, APRIL 24: Ahead of the Lok Sabha elections in 1-Baramulla Parliamentary Constituency, the District Election Officer (DEO) of Baramulla, Minga Sherpa accompanied by Syed Altaf Mosavi, the ARO, 11-Gulmarg Assembly Segment, today undertook a comprehensive inspection of various polling stations of Sub-division Gulmarg to ensure the availability of Assured Minimum Facilities (AMFs).

The DEO conducted an inspection of multiple polling stations, conducting a comprehensive assessment of crucial aspects such as ramp availability, sanitation facilities, provision of drinking water, and electricity supply which come under the purview of Assured Minimum Facilities (AMFs) mandated by the ECI guidelines.

Speaking during the visit, the DEO underscored that



the district administration has meticulously arranged all necessary facilities to ensure a smooth and hassle-free experience for both poll parties and voters during the Lok Sabha Elections.

He elaborated that special arrangements at polling stations have been implemented for voters with disabilities, including

the installation of ramps at all 905 polling stations of the district.

Minga Sherpa emphasized that wheelchair facilities will be provided at all polling stations mapped for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs), adding that the PWDs can proactively access this service in advance through the Saksham App, a user-friendly initiative by

the ECI aimed at enhancing voter convenience.

During the visit, the DEO also conducted a thorough assessment of the arrangements at the Dispatch Center, Kunzer, which serves as the hub for dispatching poll parties and election materials to polling stations of the Assembly Segment 11-Gulmarg during the Lok Sabha Elections.

DC Kupwara kick-starts plantation drive at PS Wadder Payeen

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Mega Plantation Drive under SVEEP was held today across all polling stations of district Kupwara, aimed at to promote eco-friendly practices among voters and polling officials, and ensure vibrant and active participation of the electorate in the upcoming Lok Sabha Election, 2024.

Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan who is also District Election Officer, today kick-started the plantation drive in the district by planting a Cedar tree in the premises of Polling Station Wader Payeen.

Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Handwara, Aziz Ahmad Rather, DFO Langate, XEN R&B, ZEO, Tehsildar and other concerned were present on the occasion.

The DC also visited various polling stations of Handwara sub division during which she carried out plantation activities and took stock of availability of the Assured Minimum Facilities (AMF) in polling stations for smooth participation of the electorate especially PWD and old age voters.

During her visit to the



Rajwar block, the DC paid a surprise visit to NTPHC Wadder and inspected the ongoing immunization programme.

Earlier, the DC presided over a training programme of concerned officers at Environment Hall Handwara and sensitized them about their role and responsibility in the fair and smooth conduct of the election in the district.

Meanwhile, plantation drives were carried out in all polling stations of the district which were led by the concerned Assistant Returning Officers (AROs)

and witnessed participation of officers from Forest Department, Social Forestry, Education and other concerned departments.

SDM Karnah, Zaffar Ahmad Lone led a plantation drive at Government High School Gundishart in which Officers, officials from different departments and a huge number of students participated.

ARO Kupwara, Irfan Bahadur led a plantation drive at Government Higher Secondary School Kupwara in which the Principal, school staff and stu-

dents took part.

Chief Education Officer Kupwara, Abdul Majeed Dar participated in a plantation drive at Boys Higher Secondary School Maidanpora Lolab. Plantation drives were also carried out in various schools of the Lolab sub division in which the staff and the students participated actively.

DFO Kamraj, Anurag Ariya led a plantation drive at Government Higher Secondary School Kandi Khass in which school Principal, staff members and a large number of students participated.

Women believe only the BJP can guarantee their security, safety, dignity: Rekha

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India is a nation that has been a cradle for many brave hearts who have been instrumental in molding the past, present, and future, thereby contributing towards nation-building. Be it Rani Laxmibai or Rani Gaidinliu, as stated by BJP District President Jammu South Rekha Mahajan. Ex-Councillor Neena Gupta, Mahila Morcha District President Divya Jain, Kamlesh Magotra, Suman Raina, and others accompanied her during the election canvassing.

Accelerate the election campaign of Lok Sabha while addressing the public gathering, Rekha Mahajan highlights many schemes in front of the audience. She asserted that Prime Minister Modi has adopted a comprehensive approach in order to promote gender-neutral equality and place women at the forefront of progressive developments. Rekha Mahajan recounted that



this strategy encompasses a wide range of initiatives, including the launch of numerous programs catering to married and pregnant women, instituting changes in childbirth procedures, and the implementation of various initiatives aimed at supporting and educating adolescent girls and fostering a thriving workforce for career-oriented women. She added that the Modi-led government has displayed an unwavering commit-

ment to uplifting this historically marginalized segment of the population, thereby ushering in a transformative era for social change and women's empowerment.

Rekha Mahajan elaborates that the way PM Modi inspires people and motivates the workforce has impacted the lives of all sections and strata of women. She said the Modi government's programs and policies have borne successful results, which are visible in

several achievements such as an improvement in the sex ratio and the maternal mortality ratio, along with a significant rise in institutional delivery. A multitude of comprehensive women's welfare programs have been initiated, including the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PM-MVY), designed to address heightened nutritional requirements and compensate for income loss among expectant mothers, she said.

Lok Sabha Elections: General, Police Observers for Anantnag-Rajouri PC visit Kulgam

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General Election Observer, Jenu Devan and Police Observer, Dr. B Naveen Kumar for the 3-Anantnag-Rajouri Parliamentary Constituency today made joint visit to Kulgam district and chaired a comprehensive review meeting with Nodal officers on Election preparedness at the Conference Hall Mini-Secretariat, here.

During the meeting, the District Election Officer (DEO) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan provided a detailed overview of the arrangements made for the elections scheduled on 7th May, 2024 in the district through a PowerPoint presentation.

Various aspects such as expenditure monitoring, functioning of the District Election Control Room, Transport Plan, SVEEP activities, Security Plan, and other parameters of the District Election Management plan were discussed.

It was highlighted that all logistical, material, manpower, and other necessary arrangements have been put in place to ensure the



smooth conduct of elections in a free and fair manner in the district.

Concerned Nodal Officers apprised the Observers about their assignments and the arrangements being made, especially regarding dispatch and distribution centers, security, training, and SVEEP activities.

A thorough review of security arrangements was taken and the SSP Kulgam, Sahil Sarangal provided insights into the measures taken for the smooth con-

duct of elections.

The Observers emphasized the importance of high voter turnout and incident-free elections, inquiring about previous voter turnout, voter participation, SVEEP activities, and security-related issues.

The Observers also visited polling stations located at D.H.Pora, overseeing arrangements and the availability of AMF.

In addition to the review meeting, observers visited Media Monitoring and So-

cial Media Cell, Joint Election Control Room, and Collection/Distribution centers.

Detailed assessments were made regarding the arrangements for the safety, surveillance, and security of Election-related material and machinery.

The meeting was attended by DEO Athar Aamir Khan; SSP Kulgam, Sahil Sarangal; ADCC, Bashir Ahmad Wani; DPO, Abdul Rasheed; AROs, Nodal Officers and other concerned officials.

Health Secy reviews arrangements for Shri Amarnathji Yatra

JAMMU, APRIL 24: Secretary, Health and Medical Education, Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, today chaired a meeting to review healthcare arrangements being put in place for the upcoming Shri Amarnathji Yatra, 2024.

During the meeting, the Administrative Secretary directed the officials to collaborate closely with Shri Amarnath Shrine Board, Health Department and security forces to ensure co-ordinated healthcare services for the Yatries.

The Secretary instructed the officials to finalize all necessary arrangements before the Yatra begins. He highlighted the importance of having both portable and fixed oxygen supplies at all health centers established along the Yatra route. Further, he instructed Director Health Services, Kashmir, to expedite establishment of a 100-bedded hospital by ONGC and arrange the required human resources for the hospital. He also stressed the need to make sure that all essential medicines and medical equipment are readily available for the pilgrims.

The Secretary emphasized the importance of facilitating a seamless and hassle-free Yatra experi-



ence for the pilgrims. He directed for ensuring that requisite healthcare staff should be readily available at all healthcare institutions, especially on highways and critical points along the Yatra route. He called for implementation of a quick and reliable emergency response system at all levels and instructed the officials to ensure deployment of ambulances along the Yatra route. He asked for keeping the 102 and 108 Ambulance systems on alert during the Yatra.

The Director Health Services Kashmir provided an overview of the planned healthcare arrangements for the Yatra. He informed that a total of 55 medical centers will be set up, including 06 base hospitals with 100 bedded hospital each at Baltal & Chandanwari, 11 medical aid centers, 12 emergency aid centers, 26 oxygen booths, and

15 on-route facilities. He further stated that 17 on-route facilities will be kept on standby to address any emergencies.

The Director also shared that they have planned to deploy a total of 1415 healthcare staff for the Yatra, including 173 specialists, 244 medical officers, and 998 paramedics. Out of these, 754 will be sourced from J&K, and 661 will be requested from the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India.

The Deputy Director Health Services, Jammu (Nodal Officer for Amarnath Yatra-2024) provided the details of medical arrangement on Yatra routes from Lakhnapur to Banihal. He informed that 15 emergency rooms will be made operational to tackle any emergency during the Yatra, 53 health centres will be ready for providing medical care

facilities to Yatries from Lakhnapur to Lamber ground Banihal. More than 60 ambulances including 20 ALS ambulances shall be utilized during Yatra. Apart from this, the services of 15 Doctors and 60 Paramedics of Jammu Division will be placed at the disposal of Director Health Services, Kashmir for Amarnath Yatra-2024. The medical teams will also be deployed at Yatri Niwas Bhagwati Nagar Jammu and Yatri Niwas Chanderkote, Ramban to provide 24x7 medical care facilities to Amarnath Yatries.

The meeting was attended by senior officials from the Health & Medical Education Department, Director Health Services Kashmir and Deputy Director Health Services, Jammu, Chief Engineer, R&B, South Kashmir, and Chief Medical Officers of J&K.