

Panchayat and Municipal elections on May 16

Staff Reporter

ITANAGAR, April 1: Keeping all speculation at rest, the Arunachal Pradesh is going for both Panchayati Raj and Municipal elections simultaneously on May 16. The counting for votes will be held on May 21. However, notification for the elections will be issued on April 16 and the code of conduct will come into the force immediately after formal announcement of poll schedule. This was announced by State Election Commissioner K D Singh in a press meet here today.

According to Singh, a total number of 5,83,409 voters will exercise their franchise in 1841 polling stations to choose a total number of 9365 members of panchayat institutes from village to district level. There are 7403 seats for Gram Panchayat Members, 1785 for Anchal Samity Members, 177 seats for Zilla Parishad Members.

Simultaneously, Municipal body elections will be held at Itanagar and Pasighat for 30 and 12 wards



respectively. The Municipal elections are being held in the state for the first time. A total number of 61,493 vot-

through ballot papers while the municipal body through Electronic Voting Machine, (EVM).

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ers will decide the fate of 30 councilors at Itanagar, while 9683 voters will exercise their franchise to elect 12 councilors under Pasighat municipal board. Hopefully, 10 and 4 seats will be reserved for women both in Itanagar and Pasighat municipal elections, the Singh added. The election to Panchayati Raj will be held

Singh further informed that date for the Panchayat and Municipal elections was fixed after due consultation with the state Govt and political parties. The term of the existing Panchayat institutes will come to an end in the 1st week of June.

Responding to a specific question, Singh said

that there is a constitutional obligation to conduct the Panchayati Raj elections in time.

Terming the elections as ‘festival of democracy’ Singh made an appeal to the all political parties and voters to ensure smooth and peaceful election.

While referring to the code of conduct, the SEC informed that strict election model code of conduct will be in place. This time, slaughtering of Mithun and other domestic animals during the period of elections will be construed as an offence as it amount to luring the voters, the SEC said adding, therefore, slaughter of animals during the period of election process shall be banned except in community and traditional rituals for which necessary approval will be given by the concerned district municipal election officers/DCs, he added. State Election Commission secretary K. Payeng and Under Secretary Higio Talla were also present in the press meet.