

INDEPENDENT REVIEW - 02/04/2013

# Panchayati Raj, Municipality poll schedule announced, no votes-for-Mithuns: SEC

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ITANAGAR, 1 APR

As the duration of the existing Panchayati Raj Institution of the state is nearing its end on the first week of June next, the Arunachal Pradesh State Election Commission today announced the schedule for holding both Panchayati Raj and Municipality elections together in the state.

Addressing a press conference at his office today, State Election Commissioner K D Singh told media persons that the much awaited Panchayati Raj election for the entire state and the Municipal Council election for both Pasighat and Itanagar towns will be held on May 16 simultaneously, while the counting will be done on May 21 next, adding that the official notification for the elections to the local bodies will be issued on April 16 next.

Around, 583409 voters will turn up to exercise their franchise to elect 7403 gram panchayat members, 1785 anchal



State Election Commissioner K D Singh speaking to the media

samity members, 177 zilla parishad members in 1841 polling stations besides electing 30 and 12 local urban body members for Itanagar and Pasighat respectively. According to the 33 percent reservation of seats for women candidates, ten seats are reserved for women in the Itanagar Municipal Council and four seats for the Pasighat Municipal

Council. He also informed that there is an eight percent increase in voters in comparison to previous elections, where 80 percent of the voters of the state participated in the election process. "This is the festival of democracy. Everybody has got rights to participate in the adult franchise during the celebra-

tion of those festivals", Singh said. He further appealed to all the political parties to ensure the proceedings take place peacefully during the election and asked them not to indulge in corrupt and violent practices for securing votes. The election commissioner also said that the model code of conduct

will be implemented after the notification of the election and observers to oversee the election process of both the urban local bodies will also be appointed. Strict election model code of conduct will be implemented and this time the slaughtering of mithuns and other domestic animals during the election period will be construed as an offence to woo voters. As such, the slaughter of animals during the election process shall be banned except for community and traditional ritual slaughters for which necessary approval will be given by the concerned DCs, he added.

The elections for Panchayati Raj will be held through ballot papers while the municipal body elections will be done through electronic voting machines (EVM), he further informed. State Election Commission Secretary K Peyang and Under-secretary Higio Talla were also present during the press conference.