

SEC calls for defect-free electoral rolls, free and fair PR elections

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ITANAGAR, Apr 11: With the preparations for ensuring Municipality and Panchayati Raj elections were going on, State Election Commissioner K D Singh today called upon the officials concerned to put in place "defect-free" electoral rolls for the civic and PR polls slated on May 16 next.

Addressing a meeting of Deputy Commissioners and Superintendents of Police of all districts at the SIRD conference hall in Itanagar today, the State Election Commissioner (SEC) asked all concerned officials to perform their election duties freely and fearlessly.

"Since election is a zero-tolerance exercise, it's my ardent appeal to my fellow officers (Deputy Commissioners cum District Election Officers) to see to it that a defect-free electoral roll is in place for the forthcoming elections to the PRIs and Civic Bodies," said the SEC. He further said the task of preparing the E-roll is the job of electoral registration officers (EROs) and under no



State Election Commissioner briefing SPs and DCs on Panchayat election preparedness at SIRD, Itanagar.

any circumstances, they should succumb to any threat, or intimidation."

He further said that in case of false information being furnished by electors to get one's name included in E-rolls, it may lead to one-year imprisonment or a fine of Rs 5,000 or both.

"Our officers should perform their election duties freely and fearlessly, and we have not here to play any partisan role but to act in a transparent manner as there is nothing to hide in the electoral democracy. In election matters, don't listen to anyone except for rule books (which already been given for guidance of all the offic-

ers, political parties and their candidates) to avoid bogus registration of voters to evade any problem in future," he said, adding that "deletion and addition (of voters' name) is an ongoing process and it can be done even after the poll process is over."

The SEC also made it clear that in case of PR polls, only the indigenous voters can exercise their democratic franchise, and the Municipality election (being held for first time) is just like Assembly and Parliamentary polls where everybody can vote.

While the Director of Panchayati Raj, Bidol

Tayeng divulged that seven out of 16 Zilla Parishad seats in the State were reserved for women under the provision of Article 343D of the Constitution that provides for 33 per cent seats reservation for women in Panchayats, the State Election Commissioner said, "We are resolute to ensure at least 33 per cent reservation in all three-tier of Panchayats."

Singh also said that State govt has been cooperative and assured of a fool-proof security arrangement for a free, fair and peaceful conduction of both civic and PR polls.