

PR, civic polls preparations on

# SEC calls for defect-free E-rolls

ECMO of ANCHAL - 12/04/2013.

**Staff Reporter | ITANAGAR, Apr 11:** With the preparations for ensuing Municipality and Panchayati Raj elections on, State Election Commissioner KD Singh today called upon the officials concerned to put in place "defect-free" electoral rolls for the civic and PR polls.

The State, for the first time, is going to hold the Municipality polls in Itanagar and Pansighat, along with the elections to the three-tier Panchayati Raj institutions on May 16 next.

Addressing a meeting of Deputy Commissioners and Superintendents of Police of all districts at the SIRD conference hall here, the State Election Commissioner (SEC) asked all concerned officials to perform their election duties "freely and fearlessly without heading to any other quarters".

"Since election is a zero-tolerance exercise", said the SEC. "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 PR and Civic Bodies."

He said, "The task of preparing the E-roll is the job of electoral registration officers and under no any circumstances, they should succumb to any threat, intimidation (from others)."

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

he told the officers 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 atleast 33 per cent reservation in all three-tier of Panchayats."

The PR director also informed that in total 16 more Anchal Samitis (spread across the districts of East

Siang, West Siang, Upper Siang, Papum Pare, Kurung Kumey and Changlang) have been created in exercise of the delimitation process.

The SEC said that the State govt has assured of a fool-proof security arrangement for a free, fair and peaceful conduct of both civic and PR polls. He also made it amply clear that there would be "no postal ballot papers" for polling officials saying there is "no mention" about postal ballots in the PR Act. He, however, said three days ahead of polling, the officers on election duty can exercise their franchise.

Today's (11th April, 11 am) meeting was convened by the SEC to discuss the poll preparedness, including manpower requirement, security and other logistics for the May 16 elections, the notification for which is expected to be issued shortly.