

**STATE ELECTION COMMISSION
ARUNACHAL PRADESH, ITANAGAR**

No.SEC/AP/PS-2/2013

Dated Itanagar, the 23rd April ,2013

PRESS RELEASE
Itanagar, 23rd April,2013

The State Election Commission of Arunachal Pradesh has notified programme for holding General Elections to Panchayats of Arunachal Pradesh, and Municipalities of Itanagar and Pasighat on the 16th April '2013 and the Model Code of Conduct has come into force.

As a moulder of public opinion, print media have few equals in a democratic set up like Arunachal Pradesh. The Commission itself being a constitutional authority is conscious of the freedom of press, which Indian Constitution envisages and which the editors of dailies in the State uphold.

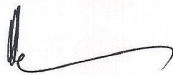
However, the Commission has noted with concern that in the dailies of 22nd April 2013, some reports were published with headlines like "Anjaw to have hospital soon," and "Anjaw set to get 'dream' medical" etc which fall in the category of "surrogate or paid news" and banner headline like "Rubber to meet 25% of 1-lakh job target: CM" in one of the dailies, but in the detailed reporting under this heading there is no mention that CM said so. Press would appreciate that such headlines should be avoided when MCC is in operation, as it may be misinterpreted as highlighting the achievements of the State Government.

In the interest of free and fair elections, it is expected that the press in Arunachal Pradesh will desist from reporting exaggerated news items in favour of, or against any party or candidates, as biased news vitiates the election process. The Commission is aware that the press already has a code of conduct.

Therefore, the Commission would like to advise the Print media to impose a self regulation to maintain the purity of election process and due scrutiny should be done to ensure that the news does not exert undue influence on the voters. It is advised further that Press Council of India guidelines should be followed in this regard.

The State Election Commission holds freedom of Press in high esteem and expects the Press to have same regards for the Model Code of Conduct.

The Commission takes this opportunity to appeal to every citizen of Arunachal Pradesh to contribute their beats in holding peaceful and violence-free General Elections to Panchayati Raj Institutions and Municipalities of Itanagar and Pasighat.


(Kanto Peyang)
Secretary

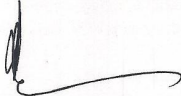
State Election Commission
Arunachal Pradesh, Itanagar

Memo No.SEC/AP/PS-2/2013

Dated Itanagar, the 23rd April,2013

Copy to:

1. The Director (IPR), Arunachal Pradesh, Naharlagun for information and necessary action.
2. The PTI/UNI Itanagar.
3. The Editor, Echo of Arunachal, Itanagar.
4. The Editor, Arunachal Front, Naharlagun.
5. The Editor, Arunachal Times, Itanagar.
6. The Editor, Eastern Sentinel, Itanagar.
7. The Editor, Dawnlit Post, Itanagar.
8. The Editor, Independent Review, Itanagar.
9. The Editor, Arunachal Pioneer, Itanagar.
10. Office copy.


Secretary
State Election Commission
Arunachal Pradesh, Itanagar