

PRESS RELEASE NO- 54

Let us give voice to 'Aam Admi', Gen Singh appealed

Itanagar, Jan. 25: Let us pledge to inculcate sense of participation in the governance in minds of the people. Let us give voice to 'Aam Admi' said Arunachal Pradesh Governor Gen JJ Singh, while inaugurating the National Voters' Day celebration at Banquet Hall on Jan 25 last. It will be our real contribution towards democratic ideals of our constitution, **reports PRO to Governor**

Taking pride in participating in the first National Voters' day programme, Gen Singh said, I am confident that this celebration will definitely give impetus to our endeavour to make universal adult franchise a reality by creating awareness regarding our voting rights and importance of effective participation in election process. This in turn will enhance the quality of Indian democracy. This pro-active initiative of the Election Commission will also definitely instill a renewed sense of citizenship, pride and participation in the minds of the newly enrolled voters and as also the eligible ones, he added.

Extending greetings on the Foundation Day of Commission, Governor said, Election Commission of India has been one of the strongest pillars of democracy in India and reposing my confidence in the Election Commission, I can say with complete certainty that free & fair elections and complete participation of all voters will be ensured by the Commission.

Governor, who handed over the Election Photo Identity Card (EPIC) to the newly enrolled voters on the occasion, congratulated them and said; I look forward for your complete participation whenever occasion arises. Be an ambassador of the Election Commission and create awareness among your friends and relatives. Take upon yourself the responsibility to ensure that every eligible member of your family, area, village or circle is enrolled, he appealed.

Noting the election process in the State, Governor said, election machinery in entire State is trying its best to enroll all the genuine Indian citizens as electors of the State to facilitate them in casting their votes. For this, even for a single voter, a polling station, namely Marambo under 41-Anini (ST) Assembly Constituency was set up in Dibang Valley district, which reflects our sincerity and unflinching commitment in maintaining the spirit of democracy. It has also been observed that the voting percentage in our State is always high in comparison to other regions of the country. Governor congratulated the State Government and the Chief Electoral Officer, officers, the District Election Officers and their teams for ensuring high percentage of enrolment and the hard work they have put in to achieve this Herculean task.

Calling for whole hearted support of all, Governor pointed we have to face many challenges in management and purification of electoral rolls but with proactive role of the officials and educated members of the society, complete participation of voters can certainly be achieved. From the beginning my Arunachalee people have been enthusiastic in participating in elections. It has been observed that people of Arunachal Pradesh always participate in all the elections with huge turn out which indicates the strong basis

of democracy in the State. Arunachal Pradesh has impressive democratic credentials. I always maintain that with small population like ours, we have cent per cent enrollment and highest percentage of participation and thereby become a role model for other States. Emphasizing on the importance of proper and cent percent enrollment, Gen Singh stated that the Electoral process and adult franchise is the foundation stone of any democracy. The conduct of free and fair elections depends much upon the performance of the three stakeholders, electoral machinery, candidates and the electorate. Each one must act responsibly. To provide true representation, first, the electoral machinery must be independent and impartial, which it has always been. Secondly, the candidate and political parties must act in a mature, self-disciplined and responsible manner. And thirdly, the electorates should exercise their franchise. They are the most vital entity in electing the people's representatives and hence proper enrollment of the electorates will directly reflect the quality of democracy, he added. Governor appealed each one to rise to the expectations of the people, their aspirations and hopes for a free and fair election. In his welcome address, Capital Deputy Commission Dr. S. Deepak Kumar highlighted on Foundation Day of Election Commission, which is being observed as the National Voters' Day. Papum Pare Deputy Commission Pige Ligu, who also spoke on the occasion, threw light on election process in the State.

Earlier the Governor administered the 'Voter's pledge' to participants and felicitated Booth Level Officers for their contributions in enrolment process. Kime Tamo, JT and Toku Taja, JT of Govt. ME School, Lobi, Kenya Koyu, AT Govt. ME School, Chimpu and Tez Prakash, AT and Tasso Dailyang, AT, Govt. ME School, Police Colony were honoured with certificates and mementoes.

In the essay writing competition, which was organized as part of the celebration on 23rd January at Dera Natung College, Itanagar, Bullo Tamo, B.Sc 2n year received the first prize, while Komin Patir, B.Com 1st year and Dogib Randa, BA, 2nd year received the second and third prizes from the Governor.

Governor also handed over EPIC to newly enrolled voters which included Badung Arjun of Chimpu, Sunita Kaur of P Sector, Dhiraj Thakur of DN College and Danny Lama, Md Shahid, Rabi Kumar Singh, Buru Tatang and Somli Sharma of Police Colony. State Home Minister Tako Dabi, State First Lady Anupama Singh, State Chief Secretary Tabom Bam, State Election Commissioner K.D. Singh, Chief Electoral Officer Yeshi Tsering, senior officers, representatives of Political Parties, students from various schools and invitees were present on the occasion.

According to official sources, constituency wise information on EPIC and photo coverage in the current rolls as on 5th January 2011 stated that three constituencies of Tawang, Bameng and Pakke Kessang of East Kameng, Mariyang-Geku of Upper Siang, Anini of Dibang Valley, Dambuk and Roing of Lower Dibang Valley, Tezu of Lohit and Nampong and Changlang South of Changlang have 100% coverage. District wise, Tawang, Upper Siang, Dibang Valley and Lower Dibang Valley districts have 100% coverage.

The total numbers of electors is 7,18,244 and 97.37% electors have been distributed the EPICs.

Sd/ Ing Tayeng,PO