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'Mission Unite' to enroll 1 lakh young voters in July

Enrollment to be carried out in schools, colleges

By Our Reporter

SHILLONG: The State Election Department will launch a statewide campaign to enroll more than 1 lakh voters, especially the first timers between the age group of 18 and 21 years.

Speaking to media persons here on Tuesday after a meeting with several political parties, Chief Electoral Officer Frederick R. Kharkongor said the 'Mission Unite Campaign' will be launched on July 1 and it will conclude on July 31.

The campaign will be simultaneously launched in all the 11 districts. "The Election Commission has put July 8 and 22 for the special enrolment drive," Kharkongor said.

The Chief Electoral Officer will tie up with 110 schools and colleges within Shillong city since the objective of the campaign is to target first-time voters between the age group of 18 and 21 years.

The enrolment will take place on school and college campuses to ensure that there is no inconvenience to students, he said.

To facilitate the enrolment of youths, the State Election Department has distributed about 11,000 voters' enrolment forms in various schools and it will also ensure that disposal of claims are done within the campus.

Meanwhile, Kharkongor said the department is concerned about those youths

in the age group of 18 to 21 who are not in school or college.

In East Khasi Hills alone, he said there are about 52,000 voters left out, which is a significant number for a single district.

"Among the constituencies in East Khasi Hills which has the highest gap is Nongkrem which is around 15,000. The rest of the constituencies have deficit ranging from 6,000 to 20,000 and 1000," he said.

The Chief Electoral Officer further informed that the matter has been discussed with the Deputy Commissioner of East Khasi Hills to find out a mechanism to bridge this gap, especially when the forthcoming Assembly polls in the State are

round the corner.

"In fact, the Deputy Commissioner had constituted a team to find out the deficit polling stations in Nongkrem constituency. We will be able to have a clear picture on the reasons for this huge deficit once the Deputy Commissioner submits his report," Kharkongor said.

The Chief Electoral Officer said in the recently concluded summary revision, there is a 3.38 per cent increase in new voters in the electoral rolls and a large number of them are youths.

According to Kharkongor, from amongst the electoral population of 17,19,000, about 10 lakh belong to the age group of 18 to 39. **(Contd on P-10)**

'Mission Unite...

(Contd from P-3) He further informed that they also discussed with the political parties on the issue of Voter-Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) or verifiable paper record (VPR) and added that the Election Commission will arrange the VVPAT system for the State.

"We will get the details as in how many constituencies the ECI will introduce the VVPAT," he added.

SHILLONG ■ WEDNESDAY ■ JUNE 14, 2017

EC to enrol 1 lakh new voters in State

GUARDIAN NEWS BUREAU
SHILLONG, JUNE 13: The state election department is targeting to enrol over one lakh first-time voters through 'Mission United' to be launched next month, ahead of the state assembly election next year.

"The Election Commission of India (ECI) has instructed all the chief electoral officers (CEOs) to roll out the enrollment drive to enroll all leftouts with a focus on the first timers who are of 18 to 21 years," state CEO FR Kharkongor said.

Addressing newspapermen after a meeting with representatives of political parties held here, Kharkongor said the state-wide launch of the Mission United, a special enrollment drive at the school/college campuses, will be on July 1.

"We, however, decided to seek the support of the political parties and also engage local Dorbar Shnongs to reach out to

non-student youths (who are of 18 to 21 years)," he said.

With Meghalaya having a total of 17.19 lakh voters as on January this year, Kharkongor said, "We are targeting to enroll 1 lakh plus youths across the state through the mission, which will be concluded on July 31."

Of the projected target, the chief electoral officer said the maximum gap of people, who are left out of electoral rolls, is in East Khasi Hills district with 52,000.

"Nongkrem, is one of the constituencies in the district, with the highest gap of 15,000," he said while informing that a meeting with all DCs was also held to take steps to bridge this gap.

Asked about the reason for the huge deficit, Kharkongor said the deputy commissioner of East Khasi Hills has already constituted a small team to look into this polling station **(Contd. on P-10)**

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EC to enrol 1 lakh new voters in state

wise and a report will soon be submitted.

Only in the state capital, 11,000 forms have been distributed to as many as 110 schools. However, in other districts, the respective deputy commissioners are in the process to submit the number of schools/colleges, he added.

According to him, students can fill in the Form-6 (for enrolment) with the assistant of a nodal teacher and need not go to the DC's office and wait for long time to complete the usual procedural processes.

He, however, said but for disposal of claims, it will be done as usual where the applicant students will have to personally appear for hearing even as he maintained that only students who are domiciles of the state are eligible to enrol.

Poll panel focuses on youth brigade

RINING LYNGDOH

Shillong, June 13: With elections to the 10th Assembly of Meghalaya drawing near, the Election Commission has instructed the state election department to do the needful to get all yet-to-be enrolled youths in the state, numbering around one lakh, enrolled as voters.

Assembly elections are likely to be held in February next year.

Speaking to reporters here after a meeting with representatives of different parties, the Meghalaya chief electoral officer (CEO), Frederick Roy Kharkongor, said the campaign "Mission Unite," in tune with the theme "No Voters Should Be Left Behind," would be launched next month.

Except for the ruling Congress, representatives of different parties attended the meeting.

The enrolment drive in all the districts will be held from July 1 to July 31 with special focus on enrolment of youths between 18 and 21 years. Kharkongor said the parties have assured their help to encouraging the youths, especially non-students in rural areas to enrol as voters. "We have youths who are students

and also non-student youths engaged in various livelihood and yet to be enrolled as voters," Kharkongor said.

According to the CEO, there are at least one lakh youths between 18 and 21 years who have not been enrolled and the election department will go all out to get them enrolled by working together with political parties, educational institutes and local headmen. "We have requested the political parties to involve booth-level agents in the enrolment process," he said.

Kharkongor said the "Mission Unite" campaign will be held on campuses of various educational institutes from July 8 to 22 for enrolling students, where nodal teachers will guide students in filling up of registration forms as well as for seamless disposal of claims and objections.

"Nearly 11,000 registration forms have been distributed to various campuses. In Shillong city alone, the election department will reach out to students through 110 educational institutes, while the district election officers are enlisting the number of educational institutes in other districts of the state," he said.

Setting the target of enrolling over one lakh youths, aged between 18 and 21, within



Frederick Roy Kharkongor (right) meets leaders of political parties in Shillong on Tuesday. Picture by UB Photos

the period, Kharkongor said East Khasi Hills has 52,000 youths, the highest among the districts, who have not been enrolled. In Nongkrem constituency, 15,000 youths have not been enrolled as voters.

According to a summary revision of electoral roll as in January this year, Meghalaya has a total of 17,19,479 voters and the enrolment percentage has gone up by 3.38. "If we can get one lakh youths enrolled this year, the number of voters in Meghalaya would definitely cross 18 lakh," Kharkongor said.

On chances of enrolling dual voters who have their names enrolled in other states too, Kharkongor said the Election Commission has developed "de-duplication software" to find out dual voters.

He added that dual voters have to apply to get their names deleted from the voter list of one state or else face action.

To a query on whether suspected illegal migrants in Assam may get a chance to enrol themselves in Meghalaya's electoral roll, Kharkongor said he had not received any such complaint.

Asked about mechanisms to detect D-voters and people from other countries likely to be granted citizenship — as they may attempt to enrol themselves in Meghalaya — Kharkongor said the state would follow clear guidelines and strategies of the Election Commission.

VVPAT use

The Election Commission is

likely to implement the Voter-Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) in the Assembly elections

Kharkongor told reporters here today that the Election Commission may use VVPAT and arrangements would be made in this regard.

"We are yet to know in how many Assembly constituencies VVPAT will be used along with electronic voting machines (EVMs), but in all likelihood VVPAT will be used in the upcoming election in the state," Kharkongor said.

On August 25, 2012, the Election Commission conducted mock polls at Sohra, to test the efficacy of VVPAT along with EVMs.

There have been apprehensions that use of only EVMs is vulnerable to fraud and political parties have demanded use of EVMs along with VVPAT to ensure free and fair polls. VVPAT is a method of providing feedback to voters using a ballotless voting system.

On every vote cast in the EVM, the VVPAT generates a ballot which remains in front of the transparent window for a few seconds for the voter to verify it. After this the ballot automatically slips into a sealed box. The vote cast in the EVM and the printed ballot should tally.

Don jingthmu ka ECI ban pyndonkam da ka VVPAT ha ka elekshon MLA ha Jylla

Shillong, Jylliew 13: Ka Election Commissioner ka Ri ka don jingthmu ba ka lah ban pyndonkam noh da ka Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trial (VVPAT) ha ka elekshon MLA-2018 ban wan hapoh ka Jylla.

"Ka ECI ka lah ban pyndonkam da ka VVPAT ha ka elekshon MLA ha Jylla bad kan sa pynbeit fa ki jingdonkam baroh halor kane ka kam" ong u Bah Fredrick Roy Kharkongor, Chief Electoral Officer



U CEO ka Meghalaya, Bah FR Kharkongor ha ka jingkiynduh bad ki nongialam na ki Political Party/

(CEO) ka Jylla haba yakren bad ki lad pathai khubor hynne ka janmiet.

Hynrei u CEO ula ong pat "Ngim pat thikna haduh katno tylli ki Constituency ki ban pyndonkam da ka VVPAT ryngkat bad ki Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) hynrei la sngewthuh ba ka ECI ka lah ban pyndonkam fa ka VVPAT ha kane ka elekshon ban wan".

Lah ban pynkynmaw ba ha ka 25 tarik Nailar 2012,

Bteng Sla 7

Don jingthmu ka ECI ban

ka Election Commission kala pynlong fa ka mock poll ha Sohra, kawei na ki Constituency ka Jylla ba jur slap eh ban pyrshang fa ka rukom treikam jong ka VVPAT bad ki EVM. Kala don ruh ka jingsngew ar taten ba ka jingdonkam tang fa ki EVM ha ka elekshon ka lah ban don ka jingleh thok bad na ka liang ki Political Party kila dawu ban pyndonkam lang fa ki EVM bad ki VVPAT khnang ban ioh fa ka jingfathep vote kaba khuid ba suba.

Ka VVPAT ka dei ka rukom thep vote kaba ai jingtip fa ki Nongthep shano ka vote jong ki ka leit khlem da donkam fa ki ballot paper. Ka VVPAT ka dei ka kor kaba pyndait lang bad ki EVM bad ka dei ka printer kaba shon fa kawei pa kawei ka vote bala thep-kaba ai jingtip fa ki Nongthep Vote shano ba ki thep fa ki Vote ne ki kyrtong ne ki shap ba ki mon hadien ba kila dep nion fa u budam ba don ha ki EVM.

Halor ki kabu ban pynrung kyrteng arsten jong ki brieve kiba don kyrteng ruh ha kiwe pat ki Jylla, u Bah Kharkongor ula ong ba ka Election Commission kala pynmip fa ka 'De Duplication Software' ha kaba lynchba kan eka software, fa lah ban ioh bat fa ki brieve ba don ar kyrteng bad bynrap ba kino kino ki brieve ba don palat fa kawei ka kyrteng ha ka electoral roll kin n hap ban apply ha kaban pom noh fa kawei shuwa ba kin mad fa ki jingpynsajia.

Halor ka jingkylli ba kumno yn khanglad fa ki mynder ri ba wan rung na Assam ba kin pynrung kyrteng ha ka electoral roll ka Jylla, u Bah Kharkongor ula ong ba kum kine ki jingpynrung kyrteng ym pat ju iatakhu satia lane ioh pdiang fa kino kino ki jingujor.

Haba kylli haloe ki lad kiban khanglad fa ki brieve na kiwei pat ki Ri ka pyrthei kiba la ioh long nongshongshnong ka Ri bad ba pyrshang pynrung kyrteng thep vote ha Meghalaya, u Bah Kharkongor ula ong ba ka Jylla kan hap ban bud thik pa thik fa ki kyn don bala buh da ka Election Commission.

Halor ki hamsaia ba ka ECI ka lah ban pyn long klooi fa ka elekshon MLA ha Jylla ryngkat bad ka Jylla Gujarat bad Himachal Pradesh, u CEO ula fathuh ba haduh mynta hi kam pat don satia kano kano ka jingpynidak na ka liang ka Commission haba fa dei bad kane ka kam.