



Election Department
Government of Sikkim
Gangtok

ANNUAL REPORT
2013-14

AUTHENTICATION

I, Pawan Chamling, Chief Minister and Minister In-charge of Election Department do hereby authenticate the Annual Report for the year 2013-14 and also authorize the placing of this report on the table of the Legislative Assembly.

(Pawan Chamling)
Chief Minister & Minister
In-charge, Election Department.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2013-14

I. Role and Responsibilities of Election Department

The major roles and responsibilities of the Election Department, Government of Sikkim are as follows:

1. Preparation, Revision and maintenance of Photo Electoral Rolls
2. Conduct of General Elections and Bye-elections to State Legislative Assembly.
3. Conduct of General Elections and Bye-elections to Parliament
4. Conduct of Elections for the Office of the President and Vice President of India
5. Preparations and issue of Photo Identity Cards and Voters Slips to Voters.
6. Conduct of Systematic Voters Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) campaign for Electoral Literacy and Voter Awareness.
7. Other Election & Electoral Roll related works

II. Administrative Structure

This Department is headed by the Chief Electoral Officer who is appointed by the Election Commission of India in consultation with the State Government in accordance with the Provisions of Representation of People Act, 1950. The Chief Electoral Officer is under the Superintendence, Direction and Control of the Election Commission of India. He is assisted by Special Chief Electoral officer, Addl. Chief Electoral Officer, Joint Chief Electoral Officer, Dy. Chief Electoral Officer, Joint Director, IT Officials, Accounts Officer and other Sub-ordinate Staff in the Administrative and Accounts Section.

III. Special Summary Revision of Electoral Rolls 2014

As per the directives of the Election Commission of India, a Special Summary Revision of the Electoral Rolls of Sikkim with 1.1.2014 as the qualifying date was carried out by this Department during the months of

September, 2013 to January, 2014. While the Draft Electoral Rolls were published on 31st August, 2013, Claims and Objections received upto 10th October, 2013 were disposed by the Electoral Registration Officers of the State and the Final Electoral Rolls were published on 15th January, 2014. The total Electors of the State which stood at 3,48,826 as on 31.8.2013 rose to 3,62,326 as on 15th January,2014, resulting in a net addition of 13,500 voters to the Electoral Rolls of Sikkim.

IV. Continuous updation of Electoral Rolls and Special Campaign

Since 2014 is an Election year the Election Commission of India had directed for continuous updation of the Election Rolls as well as conduct of two Special Campaigns for inclusion of the left out Voters so that every eligible voter of the State gets an opportunity to vote in the Election. Accordingly continuous updation of the rolls was carried out from 15.1.2014 till the last date of Nomination for General Elections 2014. Two Special Campaigns for inclusion of voters was also held on 9th and 16th March, 2014. As a result of all these efforts the total number of voters of Sikkim, including the Service voters stood at 3,70,770 while going for the General Elections 2014.

V. EPIC Coverage, Photo Electoral coverage and issue of EPIC Cards.

Sikkim has achieved 100% EPIC coverage which means that every voter of Sikkim has been issued an Electoral Photo Identity Cards (EPIC). Similarly, Sikkim has also achieved 100% Photo Electoral Roll coverage which means that photographs of all the voters of Sikkim are available in the Electoral Rolls of Sikkim. Further as a new initiative, PVC EPIC Cards were introduced in Sikkim on the National Voters Day celebrated on 26th January, 2014. The PVC EPIC Cards in comparison to the paper EPIC Cards are sturdy and carries additional security features and the photographs of the voters appear in color.

VI. National Voters Day

The 4th National Voters Day was celebrated on 25th January, 2014 across all the 369 Polling Station Locations, at the District Headquarters and at the State Level. The Theme for the National Voters Day 2014 was “**Ethical Voting**”, keeping in view the General Elections 2014. The State Level function was held at Chintan Bhawan, Gangtok wherein the Chief Secretary, Government of Sikkim graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. The Principal Secretary, Home, DGP, Electoral Roll Observer, Senior Officers of the Government of Sikkim, NGOs, Young Voters and Local gentries participated in the programme. The State Icon Shri Jaslall Pradhan, Former Indian Boxer, Asian Games Gold Medalist and Arjuna Awardee was also present in the programme. Representatives from various Political Parties had also participated in the National Voters Day.

The Young Voters of Gangtok and surrounding areas were felicitated on the occasion and all the participants had taken the NVD Pledge. Two Booth Level Officers from each District were conferred with best BLO Awards. The Message of Chief Election Commissioner and National Icons were displayed during the programme. A similar programme was also held at the District Headquarters as well as at the 369 Polling Station Locations across the State.

VII. Systematic Voters Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) Campaign.

In order to create Electoral Literacy and Voter Awareness among the voters of the State various activities had been taken up by the Election Department under the SVEEP programme. Some of the important activities undertaken in SVEEP during the year 2013-14 are as follows:

1. Printing, distribution and displaying of Banners, Posters, Pamphlets and Brouchers on Voters Duties and Rights.
2. Campus Ambassadors were appointed in Schools and Colleges to create publicity about enrollment among young voters at the Schools and Colleges.
3. Call Center facility with Toll Free No. "1950" have been provided for the convenience of the voters at the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer, Sikkim.
4. Entire Electoral Rolls of Sikkim has been hosted on the Official website of the Election Department, Government of Sikkim. Search facilities have been provided in the website to search the name of a voter in the Electoral Roll.
5. SMS search facility has also been provided to the voters.
6. Mobile Van, Street Play and Block level Awareness Programmes were held to educate the voters on ethical voting and on the functioning EVMs and the importance of Electoral Rolls.
7. An awareness film on how to cast vote in the EVM was also telecast through the Cable Channels of the State.
8. Jingles on Voter Awareness and the need to vote were broadcast through FM Radio Channels of the State.

VIII General Elections 2014

A number of the preparatory activities for the smooth and successful conduct of General Elections 2014 were taken up during the year 2013-14. The key activities taken up in the run up to the elections during this year were as follows:

1. Revision and updation of the Electoral Rolls and hosting them on the Official website of the Election Department.
2. Rationalization and finalization of Polling Stations.

3. Procurement of Election materials and IT Infrastructure for the conduct of Elections.
4. Procurement of Security Seals, Indelible Ink, EVM Battery from the Election Commission of India's designated Agencies.
5. Review, Corrections, Updation and Printing of various Forms and Documents needed for the Elections.
6. Formation of various Committees and Working Groups for the conduct of Elections.
7. Printing and issue of Voters Slips to all the Voters of Sikkim.
8. Procurement of Handbooks, Manuals and other Election related literature.
9. Budget Allocation for the conduct of Elections.
10. Training of District Officials and other Election Machinery for the conduct of Elections.
11. Provisions of basic minimum facilities at all the Polling Stations.
12. Meeting with Political Parties and other Stakeholders.
13. Issue of Notification relating to Elections.
14. Other important preparatory activities like identification of Counting Hall, arrangement of Observers, creation of Teams for maintenance of Law and Order and Monitoring the MCC violation etc.

IX. Budget Allocation

The total budget allocation to the Election Department during the financial year 2013-14 was Rs. 3.08 crores only.

X. Right to information Act:

During the financial year 2013-14, 7(Seven) numbers of applications were received by the Department under the RTI Act, 2005 and all the applications were disposed off during the stipulated time. The details are compiled in the prescribed format appended with the Annual Report, 2013-14.

ANNUAL REPORT UNDER SECTION 25(2) OF RTI ACT, 2005 (01.4.2013 TO 31.3.2014)

Sl. No	Name of department	Total no. Of PIOs in each deptt.& other units	Name of SPIO	Total appl. Received/ disposed/ Pending	Months													Total	Remarks
					Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar			
1	Election	One	Mr.M.N.Dhakal, Addl. CEO	App. Recd.	1	1	Nil	1	Nil	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	1	1	07		
				App. Disposed	1	1	Nil	1	Nil	1*	Nil	Nil	Nil	1*	1	1	07		
				App. Pending	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil		
				Collected RTI Fee Rs. 80 & photo copy charges Rs.Nil															

*Out of seven applications received by this Department, reply has been given for five applications by this Office and remaining two applications has been forwarded to to SPIO of concerned districts under Section 6(3) of RTI Act, 2005.

(M.N.Dhakal)
Addl. Chief Electoral Officer-cum-SPIO
Election Department