



# **ANNUAL REPORT (2012-13)**

**PROUD TO BE A VOTER, READY TO VOTE**

## ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2012-13

The Election Department, Government of Sikkim is carrying out the following works:

1. Preparation of Electoral Rolls
2. Preparation of Photo Electoral Rolls.
3. Conduct of Election to State Legislative Assembly
4. Conduct of Election to the Parliament
5. Conduct of Election of the President and the Vice President
6. Preparation and issue of Photo Id-cards.

This Department is headed by the Chief Electoral Officer who is appointed by the Election Commission of India, in consultation with the State Government and in accordance with the provisions of Representation of People Act, 1950 who is subject to the superintendence, direction and control of the Election Commission of India. He supervises the preparation, revision and correction of all electoral rolls and the conduct of all elections to the Parliament and the state legislature in the state. He is assisted by the Special Chief Electoral Officer, Additional Chief Electoral Officer, Deputy Chief Electoral Officer, Joint Director, Deputy Director/IT, Assistant Director/IT, Accounts Officer, PS to CEO and 26 sub-ordinate staff in Accounts & Administrative section.

During the year 2012-13, as per the directives of the Election Commission of India, the Department completed the Summary Revision of Electoral Rolls of the 32 Assembly Constituencies of Sikkim, including the Sangha Constituency with reference to 1.1.2013 as the qualifying date. The recently concluded Special Summary Revision conducted with reference to 1.1.2013 as the qualifying date revealed an increase of 18238 electors. It is a welcome sign that out of above 7132 electors were within the age of 18-19 age cohort. The total no. of electors has now increased to 3,48,271 from 3,30,033. The break-up are as under:

Total Male Electors :	1,80,706
Total Female Electors :	<u>1,67,565</u>
Grand Total :	3,48,271

### National Voters Day

The third National Voters Day was observed on 25<sup>th</sup> January, 2013 in selected 384 polling station locations throughout the state. The theme of NVD 2013 was **Inclusion** of young voters in electoral roll. The State level function was also held at

Chintan Bhawan in Gangtok. The function was graced by the Chief Secretary, Government of Sikkim as the Chief Guest. Representative of all political parties of Sikkim including large number of enthusiastic newly eligible registered voters, their guardian, Secretaries & HoDs, local gentries and representatives from various communities attended the function. The Chief Guest also felicitated the newly registered 18-20 years voters with their EPIC and badges. The special video on NVD which contained the message of CEC, National icons viz: Ms. M.C. Mary Kom, Olympian pugilist and Ms. Saina Nehwal, Olympian shuttler alongwith local State icons Shri Jaslall Pradhan, boxer and Shri Bahichung Bhutia, former Indian Football captain was screened.

Wide publicity under the SVEEP campaign was carried out regarding the National Voters Day as under:

- Jingles on National Voters Day celebration at State Level and respective polling location where new eligible registered 18-20 years voters felicitation with EPIC, NVD badges with the message of importance of EPIC and enrolment in voting franchise were prepared and played in 91.9 FM Radio.
- Advertisements through All India Radio and Skit through local cable television network on the theme of National Voters Day were played. Print media were also involved for propagating the message.
- Banners/posters and pamphlets in local language were prepared and displayed/distributed in urban area, rural area and all the polling location.

The Department seeks to attain 100% error-free PER and EPIC coverage by this year. The annual budget for the year 2012-13 was Rs.291.15 lakhs and further the Department received Rs.4.00 crore from the Government of India as its 50% share on election related expenses which was accordingly deposited to the state exchequer through FRED.

During the financial year 2013-14, the Department has proposed to install a Video Conference facility in the Office itself so as to monitor various activities undertaken in the district and also to have a direct link with the Election Commission of India during General Election in the year 2014.

The next General Election is likely to be held in 2014. For this purpose the Director General of Police has anticipated an amount of Rs.75 lakhs to meet the expenditure on police personnel deployment with the polling parties. The amount will have to be projected in the annual budget of 2013-14 pertaining to Election Department.

**Right to Information Act**

During the financial year 2012-13, eight nos. of applications were received by the Department under the RTI Act, 2005. The details are compiled in the prescribed format appended with the Annual Report, 2012-13.

**ELECTION DEPARTMENT**