

# Electors appealed to link Aadhar with electoral roll; Linking is voluntary, not mandatory, officials inform

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 02 AUG:

Chief Electoral Officer, Sikkim, D Anandan, has appealed to voters to link their Aadhar numbers with their electoral roll mainly to avoid duplication in the rolls. He explained that submission of Aadhar number was voluntary on the part of the electors and can be done by filling up the new Form 6B.

The Ministry of Law and Justice, on the recommendation of the Election Commission of India, has amended the Representation of Peoples Act 1950 and Representation of Peoples Act 1951 vide the Election Laws (Amendment) Act 2021 and the implementation of amendments in the election laws and rules came into the effect from 01 August 2022.

It is informed that the amendment brings in important changes into



effect like modified Registration Form, preparation of electoral rolls with reference to four qualifying dates, gender-neutral provision for Service and Special Electors and collection of Aadhar data from electors on voluntary basis.

Addressing a press conference here today, the Sikkim CEO explained that the submission of Aadhar number was totally voluntary and in case a person does not have an Aadhar number, the elector could sub-

mit a copy of any of the eleven alternative documents allowed in the new Form 6B.

He added that the Electoral Registration Officers [EROs] will not delete any entry in the electoral roll on the grounds of inability of any existing elector to furnish or intimate Aadhar number.

He mentioned that the objective of the collection of Aadhar numbers is to establish the identity of the voters, to authenticate the entries in the electoral roll or existing electors in

the roll and to identify the registration of name of the same person in more than one constituency or more than once in the same constituency.

Mr Anandan explained the methodology of Aadhar collection and security measures in place for collection and handling of Aadhar numbers of electors.

Speaking on other amendments, he mentioned that the ECI has made certain changes to simplify the Election

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rules and laws to help young eligible voters enrol immediately on turning 18 years of age.

He mentioned that the Electoral Form 6, Form 7 and Form 8 has been modified and Form 6B has been added to link Aadhar numbers with voter cards. He informed that now there will be four qualifying dates for eligible persons to enrol in the electoral roll, which are 01 January, 01 April, 01 July and 01 October. He added that with this a person turning 18 years old does not have to wait for the whole year to enrol as a voter.

While speaking on gender neutral registration for service and special voters, he mentioned that 'wife' has been replaced with 'spouse' and 'if she' has been substituted with 'if such spouse' in the form.

He mentioned that any person can contact the office of the CEO Sikkim or can visit CEO Sikkim website for further details.

The CEO mentioned that the office of the CEO has started training of Block Level Officers [BLOs], Electoral Registration Officers [EROs] and Assistant Electoral Registration Officers [AREOs] on the concept, legal provisions and the IT process involved. He informed that different awareness-building camps will be conducted for the whole month of August in the State.