

MINUTES OF THE MEETING WITH ALL POLITICAL PARTIES HELD ON 9TH APRIL,2024 AT 5.30 PM IN THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER, TRIPURA, OLD SECRETARIAT COMPLEX, AKHAURA ROAD, AGARTALA IN CONNECTION WITH GENERAL ELECTION TO LOK-SABHA,2024.

(List of the participants attended in the meeting is enclosed herewith in Annexure-A.)

At the outset, the Chief Electoral Officer, Tripura welcomed all participants of the political parties and briefly discussed on the following points.

It was informed to all participants that nomination process in both Parliamentary Constituencies of Tripura and Bye Election to 7-Ramnagar AC are over as per the programme of the Election Commission of India, announced on 16th March, 2024 for Phase-I & II. There are total 9 (nine) Contesting Candidates in both PCs where in 1-Tripura West Parliamentary Constituency all are male candidates and in 2-Tripura East (ST) PC, there are 7 (Seven) Male & 2 (Two) Female candidates. For Bye Election to 7- Ramnagar Assembly Constituency, there are 2(two) Male Contesting Candidates.

2. It was briefly informed to all about the number of electors, constituency wise and different category wise which is given as follows: -

Category wise total Electors of the State

Category of Electors	Male	Female	Third Gender	Total
General Electors	1436644	1423574	69	2860287
18-19 Electors	39425	32233	2	71660
PwD Electors	11771	7454	0	19225
85+ Electors	7437	11101	0	18538
Service Electors	10403	202	0	10605

Category wise total Electors in 1-Tripura West Parliamentary Constituency:

Category of Electors	Male	Female	Third Gender	Total
General Electors	734133	729337	56	1463526
18-19 Electors	18630	14784	1	33415
PwD Electors	5171	3042	0	8213
85+ Electors	3768	5828	0	9596
Service Electors	5806	121	0	5927

Category wise total Electors in 2-Tripura East (ST) Parliamentary Constituency:

Category of Electors	Male	Female	Third Gender	Total
General Electors	702511	694237	13	1396761
18-19 Electors	20795	17449	1	38245
PwD Electors	6600	4412	0	11012
85+ Electors	3669	5273	0	8942
Service Electors	4597	81	0	4678

Electors for Bye Election to 7-Ramnagar Assembly Constituency

Category of Electors	Male	Female	Third Gender	Total
General Electors	22078	23679	0	45757
18-19 Electors	464	396	0	860
PwD Electors	117	68	0	185
85+ Electors	102	168	0	270
Service Electors	42	4	0	46

3. The Chief Electoral Officer informed about the polling stations, as follows: -

Number of Polling Station and Polling locations in PC-1 and PC-2

No. & Name of PC	Total no of Assembly Segment	Total No. of Polling Station			Total No. of Polling Station Location		
		Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Total
1-Tripura West PC	30 ACs	547	1139	1686	313	846	1159
2-Tripura East (ST) PC	30ACs	158	1506	1664	108	1257	1365
Total:	60 ACs	705	2645	3350	421	2103	2524

1 Auxiliary PS for Bru Migrants of Kala Lowgang, Santir Bazar has been created.

Special Polling Stations for the following category have also been planned such as: -

- Woman Managed : 166
- PwD Managed : 60
- Youth Managed : 60
- Model PS : 121

4. It was again informed to all that poll for 1-Tripura West PC (Phase-1) & Bye-Election to 7-Ramnagar AC will be taken on 19/04/2024 and for 2- Tripura East (ST) PC will be taken on 26/04/2024 (Phase-2). Counting of votes for this election will be on 04/06/2024.

Poll will be taken from 07:00 AM to 05:00 PM for both PCs & for Bye Election.

5. Preparation of EVMs for 27 Assembly Segments (AS) of 1-Tripura West PC- completed, rest 3 AS will be completed by 10th April, 2024. Commissioning for Bye Election to 7-Ramnagar AC has been completed.

For 2-Tripura East (ST) PC- Commissioning will be started from 11.4.2024 and will continue upto 17.04.2024.

6. It was briefly informed to all for the voters of 7-Ramnagar AC as simultaneous poll for the AC will be taken on this election (Lok-Sabha and Assembly Elections): -

- Each voter in the 7-Ramnagar Assembly Constituency will have the opportunity to cast two votes. One vote is for the Lok-Sabha elections and the other is for the assembly by-elections.
- The ballot paper for the Lok-Sabha ballot unit will be white in colour and the ballot paper for the assembly by-election ballot unit will be pink in colour.
- In all polling stations of the 7-Ramnagar Assembly constituency, there will have two separate voting compartments. In one, there will be written **“Voting Compartment- Lok-Sabha Election 2024”**, and on the other **“Voting Compartment- Assembly Election (Bye-Election to 7-Ramnagar AC)”**

7. Postal Ballot provision to the PwD And 85+ Voters

There will be home voting facility for 85+ electors and PwD electors. Above category of voters can vote from their home on 10.04.2024 & 12.04.2024 for PC-1 & 7-Ramnagar AC and PC-2 voters can vote from their home on 17.04.2024 & 18.04.2024.

8. Dates for Postal Ballot Facilitation Centre has also been shared to all, as -

- For PC-1& 7-Ramnagar AC, Facilitation Centre for the voters (Civil and Police) who put on Election Duty will be opened on **16.04.2024 and 17.04.2024** and voters of PC-2 Facilitation Centre will be **on 22.04.2024 & 23.04.2024** at all Sub-Division Head Quarter.

- **Casting of Postal Ballot by the Absentee Voters on Essential Service:** For PC-1 & 7-Ramnagar AC will be from **15.04.2024 to 17.04.2024** and for PC-2 voters from **21.04.2024 to 23.04.2024**.

9. Restriction in the periphery of Polling Station on the Day of Poll-

- Canvassing within 100 mtr. of the polling station is an electoral offence under section 130 of the RP act 1951 and any person who indulges in such an activity, may be arrested without warrant.
- However, contesting candidates are allowed to put up their election booth beyond the distance of 200 mtr. from the polling station with one table and two chairs and an umbrella or a piece of tarpaulin over their head.

10. Voter Help Line Number facility are available in all districts and CEO Office to lodge any complaint, which are as follows-

- District Helpline No: (District code) -1950
- State Helpline No: 1800 -3450- 1950

11. Alternative Documents: - Following alternative documents will be accepted as a proof of identity during casting of vote

Apart from Voter EPIC card, there are 12 (twelve) other alternative documents which are also to be accepted at polling station as a proof of identification of voters, like-

- Aadhar Card
- PAN Card
- Unique Disability ID (UDID) Card
- Service ID card with Photograph issued to employee by central/state govt./PSUs/Public Limited Companies
- Pass Book with photo by Bank/ Post Office
- Health Insurance Smart Card issued under the scheme of M/o Labour
- Driving Licence
- Indian Passport
- Pension document with Photograph
- Official Identity Card issued to MPs/MLAs/MLCs

- MNREGA Job Card
- Smart Card issued by RGI under NPR

12. Prohibition of Public Meeting and Processions during 48 Hours immediately before the Close of Poll-

• Section - 126 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, provides for Prohibition of public meetings during period of 48 hours ending with hour fixed for conclusion of poll and no person shall –

a. Convene, hold, attend, join, or address any public meeting or procession in connection with an election; or

b. Display to the public any election matter by means of cinematograph, television, or other similar apparatus; or

c. propagates any election matter to the public by holding, or by arranging the holding of, any musical concert or any theatrical performance or any other entertainment or amusement with a view to attracting the members of the public thereto, in any polling area during the period of forty-eight hours ending with the hour fixed for the conclusion of the poll for any election in that polling area.

13. Information of Observers in the State (Enclose as Annexure A):-

Category	PC Number	
	PC-1	PC-2
General Observer	2	2
Police Observer	2	2
Expenditure Observer	1	1

14.OPINION POLL

All participants were informed that Election Commission of India vide its' Notification No.576/EXIT/2024/SDR/Vol.-I dated 28th March, 2024 has clarified that under Section 126(1)(b) of the R.P. Act, 1951, **displaying any election matter including results of any opinion poll or any other poll survey, in any electronic media, would be prohibited during the period of 48 hours ending with the hours fixed for the conclusion of the poll in connection with the aforesaid general elections and bye-elections.**

15. EXIT POLL

As per Notification issued by the Election Commission of India under the provision of Section 126A of the RP Act, 1951, no person shall conduct any Exit Poll and publish or publicise by means of the print or electronic media or disseminate in any other manner, whatsoever the result of any exit poll as notified is hereby prohibited by the Commission **within the period between 7.00 am on 19th April,2024 and 6.30 pm on 1st June,2024.**

16. Restrictions on presence of Political Functionaries in a constituency after the campaign period is over: -

Under Section 126 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, in the period of 48 hours ending with the hour fixed for the close of poll, the campaign will come to an end. During the course of campaign, the political parties mobilize their supporters, including from outside the constituency of poll, in order to bolster that campaign. In view of the fact that on the closure of campaign period, no campaign can take place within the constituency, presence of political functionaries/party workers/procession functionaries/campaign functionaries etc., who have been brought from outside the constituency and who are not voters of the constituency, should not continue to remain present in the constituency as their continued presence after campaign ends may undermine the atmosphere for free and fair poll.

17. Restrictions on the printing of pamphlets, posters, etc. (as per Section 127A of the RP Act, 1951)—

(1) No person shall print or publish, or cause to be printed or published, any election pamphlet or poster which does not bear on its face **the names and addresses of the printer and the publisher thereof.**

(2) No person shall print or cause to be printed any election pamphlet or poster— (a) unless a declaration as to the identity of the publisher thereof, signed by him and attested by two persons to whom he is personally known, is delivered by him to the printer in duplicate; and (b) unless, within a reasonable time after the printing of the document, one copy of the declaration is sent by the printer, together with one copy of the document,— (i) where it is printed in the capital of the State, to the Chief Electoral Officer, and (ii) in any other case, to the district magistrate of the district in which it is printed.

(3) For the purposes of this section,— (a) any process for multiplying copies of a document, other than copying it by hand, shall be deemed to be printing and the expression “printer” shall be construed accordingly; and (b) “election pamphlet or poster” means any printed pamphlet, hand-bill or other document distributed for the purpose of promoting or prejudicing the election of a candidate or group of candidates or any placard or poster having reference to an election, but does not include any hand-bill, placard or poster merely announcing the date, time, place and other particulars of an election meeting or routine instructions to election agents or workers.

(4) Any person who contravenes any of the provisions of sub-section (1) or sub-section (2) shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine which may extend to two thousand rupees, or with both.

Moreover, it has been clarified by the Commission vide its’ letter No 4/LET/ECI/FUNC/JUD/SDR/2016 dated 25th July, 2016 that **hoardings, flex board, etc. containing any election related advertisement have to be treated as coming within the meaning of “poster” mentioned in Section 127A.** The requirement for giving the name and address of the publisher should be followed in the case of hoarding, flex board etc., including on hoardings of photos of party leaders.

Again in the Commission’s Instruction vide No. 3/7/2008/JS-II dated 7th October, 2008 expressed that where the local law expressly permits wall writings and pasting of posters, putting up hoardings, banners, etc. on private premises with the owner’s permission, **the contesting candidates or the political parties concerned shall obtain prior written permission from the owner of the property** and submit photocopy of the same within 3 days to the Returning Officer or an officer designated by him for the purpose, along with a statement giving the particulars in the prescribed format (enclosed as Annexure-2). The statement in such cases should clearly mention the name and address of the owner of the property from whom such permission has been obtained, and expenditure incurred or likely to be incurred for the purpose.

18. Restrictions on Bike Rally: -

The Election Commission of India vide letter No.464/INST/2021-EPS dated 22nd March, 2021 has stated that **Bike Rallies shall not be allowed at any place 72 hours before date of poll and on the Poll Day in all poll going constituencies.**

In the end, the Chief Electoral Officer requested all representatives of the political parties to co-operate for conducting elections in free, fair and peaceful manner and also assured that their concerns and views will be taken care of and instruction to be issued to DEOs, ROs & AROs to take care of your all concerns and queries. All participants conveys that they will support and co-operate wholeheartedly.

Meeting ended with vote of thanks to all.

Sd/-
(Puneet Agarwal)
Chief Electoral Officer,
Tripura



ELECTION DEPARTMENT

(O/O the Chief Electoral Officer, Tripura)

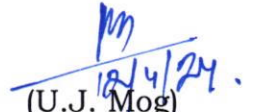
Old Secretariat Complex, West Tripura, Agartala, Pin-799001

No.F.19(25)-CEO/CONDT/2023-24/Vol.II/ 735A

Dated, the 14th April, 2024

Copy to: -

- 1) The Secretary/President, AITC/BJP/CPI(M)/INC/NPP/Tipra Motha Party/IPFT for kind information.
- 2) The PS to the Chief Electoral Officer, Tripura for kind information to the Chief Electoral Officer.
- 3) All District Election Officers (D.M. & Collectors) for information and necessary action.
- 4) All AROs for information and necessary action.
- 5) All Participants of the meeting.


(U.J. Mog)
Addl. Chief Electoral Officer,
Tripura.

Annexure-2

Statement showing the details of wall-writings / posters / hoardings / banners, etc. displayed by Shri / Smt. / Ms. _____, contesting candidate in _____ Parliamentary Constituency / Assembly Constituency

Name of the Village / Town / Locality _____

S.No.	Name and address of the owner of the private property from whom written permission has been obtained	Details of Wall - Writing or Hoardings or Banners or Poster (Size of wall writing/ hoarding / banner / poster shall be indicated)	Expenditure incurred or likely to be incurred on the wall-writing / hoarding / banner / posters, etc. (Rs.)
			Total

Annexure-A

List of Participants present in the meeting of all political parties held on 9th April, 2024 at 5.30 pm in the office of the Election Department, Tripura, Old Secretariat Complex, Akhaura Road, Agartala in connection with General Election to Lok-Sabha, 2024.

1. Shri Puneet Agarwal, Chief Electoral Officer, Tripura.
2. Shri G. S. Rao, State Police Nodal Officer, Tripura.
3. Shri Usa Jen Mog, Addl. Chief Electoral Officer, Tripura.
4. Shri S. Bandopadhyay, Addl. Chief Electoral Officer, Tripura.
5. Shri Abhijit Chakraborty, Asstt. Electoral Officer, O/O the CEO, Tripura.
6. Smti Geetanjali Das, Amra Bangalee.
7. Shri Ramesh Debbarma, Tipra Motha Party.
8. Shri Lama Debbarma, Tipra Motha Party.
9. Shri Amit Debbarma, Indigenous People's Front of Tripura.
10. Shri Balai Goswami, Bharatiya Janata Party.
11. Shri Mrinal Kanti Nath, Bharatiya Janata Party.
12. Shri Hari Pada Das, Communist Party of India (Marxist).
13. Shri Rakhal Majumder, Communist Party of India (Marxist).
14. Shri Prasanta Sen Chowdhury, Indian National Congress.
15. Shri Malin Debbarma, Socialist Unity Centre of India (Communist).
16. Shri Dipak Deb, Revolutionary Socialist Party.
17. Shri Sabhadeep Majumder, Communist Party of India.