

**MINUTES OF MEETING WITH RECOGNIZED NATIONAL & STATE POLITICAL PARTIES HELD ON 20<sup>th</sup> JANUARY, 2022 AT THE CONFERENCE HALL OF CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER, MANIPUR AT LAMPHELPAT, IMPHAL CHAIRED BY SHRI RAJESH AGRAWAL, CEO MANIPUR.**

List of participants is enclosed as Annexure.

2. At the outset, the Chief Electoral Officer, Manipur welcomed all the representatives of political parties present in the meeting and placed that the meeting was taken as a weekly meeting specially to apprise on the preparation and arrangement made in connection with the **12<sup>th</sup> General Elections to Manipur Legislative Assembly 2022.**

3. The following points were shared in the meeting:

**I. Extension of restriction on campaigning by ECI till 22-01-2022.**

- a) CEO, Manipur appraised that Commission has extended the restriction of physical rallies, roadshows, outdoor campaign till 22-01-2022.
- b) He informed that for indoor meeting, the maximum participants allowed (as laid down by SDMA) is **50 (fifty)**.

**II. Postal Ballots for Essential Services**

CEO, Manipur informed that Commission has extended the facilities of postal ballots as absentee voters to the following essential services:

- a) Electricity Department
- b) BSNL
- c) Railways
- d) Post & Telegram
- e) Doordharshan
- f) All India Radio
- g) Health Department in connection with COVID-19
- h) Aviation
- i) Fire Services
- j) Ambulance Services
- k) Media Persons authorised by ECI for poll day coverage

**III. Criminal Antecedents**

- a) CEO, Manipur informed that **Format C1** to be published by candidates having criminal antecedents & **Format C2** to be published by political parties selecting such candidates on three occasions in one of the following newspapers **AND** one of the TV channels listed below:

**Newspapers**

- a) Sangai Express (Manipuri)
- b) Poknapham
- c) Manipur Chronicle
- d) Manipur Express
- e) Sangai Express (English)
- f) Hueiyen Lanpao (Manipuri)
- g) Lamka Post

**TV Channels**

- a) ISTV
- b) Impact TV
- c) TOM TV

- b) He also informed that, Political parties shall also publish information regarding individuals with pending criminal cases, who have been selected as candidates, along with reasons for such selection, as also to why other individuals without

criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates in **Format C7** in the one of national papers (Hindu, Kolkata edition or Times of India, Guwahati edition) **in addition** to publication in local newspapers indicated in Para IIIa, websites and social media accounts of political parties.

#### **IV. Revised Abstract Statement of Election Expenses**

- a) CEO, Manipur conveyed that ECI has revised the Abstract Statement of Election Expenses due to increasing trend of virtual campaigning.
- b) He also informed that candidates are required to lodge Abstract Statement of Election Expenses along with their day to day Account Register within 30 days of declaration of results.
- c) CEO, Manipur also emphasized that **recognised Political Parties** shall submit their Abstract Statement of Election Expenditure to **ECI** within 75 days of completion of Elections. In respect of **registered unrecognised Political Parties**, it is required to submit Abstract Statement of Election Expenditure to **CEO** within 75 days of completion of Elections.

#### **V. EVMs & VVPATs**

- a) CEO, Manipur shared information regarding new Symbol Loading Units which will be used for the first time in all 60 ACs.
- b) He appraised that the first Randomisation of EVMs is going on in presence of political parties.
- c) CEO, Manipur updated that explainer videos on EVM/VVPAT familiarization are being extensively shared through digital mode. He also appealed to all political parties to follow social media accounts of CEO, Manipur and to also regularly visit website of CEO, Manipur for any update on poll process and awareness creatives.

4. The representatives of political parties also raised issues and concerns in the meeting. The representative of BJP asked whether people who are residing outside the State would be eligible for Postal Ballot or not. He also sought for information relating to distribution of Form 12 D to the absentee voters. He also sought clarification regarding pre certification of political advertisement in social media. CEO, Manipur clarified that only the Service Electors residing outside State are eligible for availing the facilities of Postal Ballot. With regard to Form 12D, he clarified that distribution and collection of Form 12 D is going on and data on distribution and collection will be shared with the political parties. He further continued that though the facilities of postal ballots are extended to absentee voters including PwD, 80+, COVID positive/suspect, voters should be encouraged to come out and cast their votes at the polling stations. He also clarified that political advertisements are required to be pre-certified by Media Certification and Monitoring Committee before uploading on social media websites. However, the posting of content on personal handles of candidates or the political parties do not need pre-certification.

5. The representative of Peoples Democratic Alliance sought clarification about the monitoring mechanism of COVID restrictions of political meetings. He also sought explanations on security deployment in the polling stations particularly in hill districts. CEO, Manipur clarified that political meetings are closely monitored by district functionaries and permissions are required to be obtained from the District Election Officer. He further clarified that Flying Squad/Video Surveillance Team are deployed whenever such meetings are held to see if there is any violation of MCC and to also record expenditure related aspects of the meeting. He also explained that adequate security will be deployed in all polling stations to ensure free and fair elections. He continued that CAPF will be deployed in all polling stations and webcasting/videography will be done in majority of polling stations.



6. The representative of CPI sought clarification on whether there is cap on each schedule of expenditure. He also sought clarification on the donations received by the candidate from other sources and spending such donations in elections. CEO, Manipur clarified that the total expenditure limit for a candidate has been fixed at Rs.28 Lakh and there is itemwise cap within overall ceiling amount. He also stated that detailed explanations with respect to the donations from other sources and spending of such donations on elections of a particular candidate shall be given in the next meeting.

7. The representative of AITC proposed for setting up of a dedicated cell for redressal of complaints at CEO's office. CEO, Manipur explained that a dedicated cell has been set up with a dedicated Nodal Officer for Complaints. He also explained that any complaint may be lodged in c-Vigil App and complaint will be redressed within 100 minutes. He appealed to all representatives of political parties to make use of c-Vigil app and to also to call toll free number 1950 for any information, feedback, suggestion or any grievances.

8. CEO also appealed to all political parties to motivate all their workers and voters to get vaccinated so that they can exercise their franchise without Covid fear on the poll day. Though all Covid related safety steps will be taken at the polling stations, complete vaccination of electors can add immensely to Covid safety of all on the poll day. An improved vaccination in the State will also enable ECI to lift the present restrictions on physical campaigning in the State. He re-iterated the need for all polling and counting agents to be completely vaccinated with both doses.

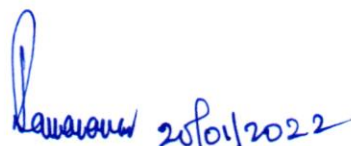
9. The meeting concluded with thanks from the Chair.

**Sd/-**  
**(Rajesh Agrawal)**  
**Chief Electoral Officer, Manipur**  
Imphal, the 20<sup>th</sup> January, 2022

**Memo No. COE-101/1/2021-ELEC-ED**

**Copy to:**

1. All District Election Officers/Returning Officers
2. Representatives of political parties
3. Relevant File.

  
**(Ramananda Nongmeikapam)**  
**Joint Chief Electoral Officer, Manipur**

## Attendance Sheet

Meeting with Recognised National & State Political Parties  
CEO Lamphel, Manipur.

Date: 20/01/2022

Sl. No.	Name	Party Name	District	Contact No.	Signature
1	<u>Manasa Kshyit Singh.</u>	NP TC	Imphel West,	6909895602	Mr. N. Kshyit Singh
2	Kh. Shangkpa	CPI	Imphel West	9366249728	Kh. Shangkpa
3	Kh. Singam Singh	NPO	Imphel Office	9612130348	Kh. Singam Singh
4	Tithung Mevahem	NPO	-	9612017272	Mevahem
5	S.T. ESA	NOP	-	8974902515	ESA
6	Ramkhing Hunsaga	PDA	Imphel	6004409861	Ramkhing
7	G. Ganawani	INC	Imphel West,	9862046908	G. Ganawani
8	Ksh. Sopen	CPI(M)	Imphel	8974458950	Ksh. Sopen
9	P. Chandra	CPI(M)	Imphel	7625020193	P. Chandra
10	M. K. Kshyit	BSP	West	8414912386	M. K. Kshyit
11	Tongtham Tikhawar	BJP	West	97744749539	Tongtham Tikhawar
12	M. Kshyit Singh	BJP	Imphel Office	9856239678	M. Kshyit Singh