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Press Release

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The Chief Election Commissioner of India Dr. Nasim Zaidi has directed the officials to ensure the conduct of Bihar Assembly election, 2015 in a free, fair, peaceful and participatory manner. He called upon the officers to be neutral and impartial and to deliver a very credible election. In a review meeting of the election officers of 1st, 2nd and 3rd phase in the presence of Election Commissioners Shri Achalkumar Joti and Shri O P Rawat in Patna today, CEC directed the officials to conduct election with fairness and utmost neutrality. The meeting was attended by Deputy Election Commissioner Shri Sudhir Tripathi, Deputy Election Commissioner Shri Umesh Sinha, Director General Shri Sudeep Jain, Director Shri Dharendra Ojha and Shri NC Swain, CEO Bihar Shri Ajay Nayak, Additional Chief Electoral Officers Sri Arvind Kumar Chaudhary and Sri R. Lakshmanan.

The CEC called upon the officers to make full use of important software- SUVIDHA, SAMADHAN and Vehicle Management System to facilitate the political parties and public at large. SUVIDHA is single window system for the permissions and clearances to the political parties and SAMADHAN is the grievance redressal system. The vehicle management system will ensure timely online payment to its owner in his bank account ensuring elimination of intermediaries and prevention of requisition of one vehicle multiple times.

The commission reviewed the law and order situation and security plan and directed to ensure social and religious harmony and peaceful law and order especially in the light of different festivals such as Dussehra, Muharram. The commission also directed to intensify the preventive actions, disposal of NBWs, seizure of illicit liquor and illegal arms. To solidify the confidence, he directed to ensure confidence building measures and area domination by the CPF specially in all vulnerable locations. The commission also directed to implement Model Code of Conduct uniformly without any discrimination.

Commission directed to use CAPF for area domination exercise and also directed to deploy CAPF at booths as well as ensuring the movement of these forces in the areas/ hamlets to avoid any possible incident of intimidation to weaker sections of the society.

For Expenditure Monitoring, a system has been put in place by deploying IT application for lodging of complaints and Booth level Awareness Groups (BAG) have been created for ethical voting campaign. The Commission directed officials to take stern action for curbing the influence of money power and control the movement of black money. Rs. 9.16Crore Rupee and 56.12 Lakh Nepali currency have been recovered till now while 35.54 lakh rupees was recovered during 2010 Assembly Election. During LS-2014, 6.02 Crore Rupees cash and 21.60 Lakh Nepali Currency was recovered. To control the Election Expenditure, the Commission directed to make FS/SST effective with the help of CAPF and directed them to remain in the area till the day of election. Political parties in their meeting with Commission yesterday, praised the stringent actions taken by ECI for controlling illegal money.

In the meeting, Officers from 1st three phases apprised the Commission regarding the poll preparation of their Assembly Constituencies. The commission gave necessary instruction for the peaceful conduct of poll. The CEC directed the officers to dedicate themselves for free, fair, transparent, participatory and voter centric election. All district Election Officer, Senior Superintendent of Police, Superintendent of Police, DIGs, IGs, Divisional Commissioners and

nodal officers of Police, Excise and Income Tax were present in the meeting.

The commission directed officials to act proactively to provide basic minimum facilities such as permanent ramp, drinking water, seperate toilets for male and female, electricity, to strengthen the helpline facility for the electors and to distribute voters' slip atleast five days before the poll day to each voter.

The Commission directed to make Voter Awareness Campaign strong and effective for ensuring greater participation of voter and to increase voter turnout.

The Commission also had a meeting with the senior most officers, the chief secretary, SriAnjani Kumar Singh, the DGP Sri P. K. Thakur, Principal Secretary, Home SriSudhir Kumar Rakesh and other officers and discussed different poll related issues and gave necessary instruction regarding the conduct of poll.

Earlier on 27.09.2015, in the meeting with the political parties, the Commission took note of the demands and suggestions made by political parties, which were represented by their senior functionaries. The political parties praised the steps taken by the Commission especially the single window system and expressed satisfaction with the meeting where Commission assured them about effective monitoring of the conduct of entire poll process to deliver a free, fair, inclusive and peaceful election in a participatory manner.
