

LOK SABHA ELECTIONS 2024**Mega SVEEP programme held at Ski-Resort Gulmarg****DEO B'la kicks off the event from the majestic Afarwat Peak**

GULMARG, APRIL 02: With an aim to enhance public participation in the upcoming General Elections to Lok Sabha, 2024, the District Election Officer (DEO) Baramulla, Mingsha Sherpa today kick started a mega Voter Awareness programme under Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) initiative at the International tourist destination Gulmarg.

The DEO kick-started the proceedings of the event at the majestic Afarwat Peak, standing at 14,500 feet above the sea level, where hundreds of tourists visiting from across India captured memorable selfies at the SVEEP selfie stand set up by the District Administration Baramulla.

Mingsha Sherpa interacted with the tourists and took selfies with them at the SVEEP selfie stand while encouraging them to participate in the upcoming Lok Sabha Elections 2024.

As part of the campaign, a vibrant snow bike and ski rally was held which was flagged-off by Mingsha Sherpa from the Kongdori Ski-Point, to encourage youth especially first time voters to participate in the electoral process.

Youth from across the Baramulla district participated in the rally which culmi-

tively participate in the democratic process. Speaking during the

cy. Nodal Officer SVEEP, Sapna Kotwal emphasized



nated near the Gondola Phase-I.

At the Kongdori, the DEO visited the state of art Mock Iqbal Polling Station constructed by the youth services department with a theme "Vote for democracy" under SVEEP initiative. The election officials demonstrated to the visiting tourists the process of seamless use of the Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) at the polling centre, thereby empowering them to effec-

event, Mingsha Sherpa said that the primary objective behind organizing such events is to enhance voter awareness and boost the public participation in the electoral process in the upcoming Lok Sabha Elections of 2024.

The DEO further emphasized the importance of every citizen's active involvement in the democratic process, underlining that a well-informed electorate is fundamental to ensuring a vibrant and representative democra-

the role of SVEEP in educating people about the electoral process and entrusted the media to give wide publicity to such events for the wholesome voter awareness.

Later, a vibrant cultural programme was organized under SVEEP at the Club Park Gulmarg, where students from different schools and other artists showcased their performances and participated in the painting competition focusing on voter awareness.

GDC Sumbal celebrates World Autism Day

BANDIPORA, APRIL 02: The Department of Education, Government Degree College (GDC) Sumbal on Tuesday commemorated World Autism Day. The programme was organized under the patronage of Prof. (Dr.) Shabeena Iqbal Shawl.

This significant event aimed to raise awareness about autism and promote a better understanding of this

developmental disorder.

On the occasion, Professor Manzoor Ahmad Parey, Head, Dept. of Education delivered a thought-provoking lecture on the theme of World Autism Day. The focal point of the event was to enhance the participants' knowledge and understanding of autism.

He meticulously explained the complexities related to autism by high-

lighting its various aspects, including behavioural patterns, challenges faced by individuals with autism, and potential ways to support and accommodate them in society. Prof. Parey commenced the session with an overview of autism, its prevalence, and its impact on individuals and their families.

He underlined the significance of early detection and diagnosis of Autism

Spectrum Disorders (ASD) for effective intervention and support systems.

Through engaging anecdotes and scientific research insights, he emphasized the necessity of recognizing and embracing neurodiversity.

The lecture was followed by a Question-Answer session, providing attendees with an opportunity to discuss their queries and seek further clarification.

LOK SABHA ELECTIONS 2024**DEO Kupwara holds meeting with AROs, District Officers & Principals**

KUPWARA, APRIL 02: The District Election Officer (DEO), Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan Tuesday chaired a general election meeting of Assistant Returning Officers (AROs), District Officers, Election Nodal Officers, Principals of Degree Colleges and Higher Secondary Schools at Meeting Hall of DC Office Complex here to review the progress of preparations with regard to conduct of upcoming Lok Sabha Elections-2024 in the district.

At the outset, the DEO reviewed the status of Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) program in the district.

The DEO directed Nodal Officer SVEEP/CEO Kupwara to activate and upscale BAGs (Booth Awareness Groups) and SVEEP activities besides making them sustained and regular activities so that voter awareness, education and participation in the electoral process is further promoted in the district. She also directed Nodal Officer SVEEP to take the Information & PR department on board for the wide publicity of the activities.

She enjoined upon the HOIs and District Officers to organize SVEEP sessions in their respective Educational

institutions and Offices. The DEO directed the concerned Officers to work with utmost coordination to complete all assigned tasks related to the conduct of the

concerned to ensure readiness of all arrangements for polling parties, and security staff.

The DEO also enjoined upon the concerned to take

ty. The DEO directed the concerned to establish Postal ballot facilitation centres for every assembly segment.

She asked the concerned



Lok Sabha elections-2024. She stressed that Assured Minimum Facilities (AMF) should be ensured as per norms of ECI.

She directed HOIs to cross check the AMFs at respective Polling stations, besides concerned AROs will oversee the inspection of AMFs in Polling stations. She further directed the

up all necessary arrangements for facilitating voting by Postal Ballots by various categories of Voters including service voters, personnel on Poll Duty, Employees of Essential service

Departments, migrant electors, absent electors, etc so that they cast their vote in upcoming Lok Sabha Election without any difficul-

Nodal Officers to expedite the process of imparting Election related Trainings to the Poll Staff and ensure no additional assignments are allocated to Polling staff.

The meeting was attended by AROs, District Officers, Election Nodal officers and Principals of Degree Colleges and Higher Secondary Schools.

Empowering First Time Female Voters: Mega Awareness Program under SVEEP held at Bandipora**Kindergartens welcome first time female voters**

BANDIPORA, APRIL 02: As part of the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) initiative, District Administration Bandipora on Tuesday organized a mega awareness program for first time voters at Mini Secretariat Bandipora.

The program started with an engaging and informative interaction of District Election Officer (DEO) Bandipora, Shakeel ul Rehman with the participants aimed at empowering young women who are preparing to cast their votes for the first time.

While interacting with the first-time female voters, the DEO highlighted the value of informed decision-making and responsible voting.

On the occasion, Kindergartens from various schools joined hands to celebrate and support first-time female voters by presenting

them flowers. This heart-warming gesture was aimed

right. Later, an awareness pro-



to recognize the importance of participation of first-time female voters in the electoral process and to inspire confidence and enthusiasm in exercising their democratic

programme was held in conference hall mini secretariat Bandipora which was presided over by Dy DEO Bandipora, Mohammad Rafeeq Bhat and was attend-

ed by first time female voters, ASHA Workers and the staff to be deployed for pink polling stations.

Addressing the gathering, the Dy DEO highlighted the role of Booth Level Awareness Groups (BAGs) for ethical voting campaign and in facilitating voters besides emphasizing their role in awareness generation among voters.

The program also witnessed demonstrations and training to female employees for handling EVMs and other polling equipment aimed at ensuring smooth and efficient operations during the polling process.

Among others, the program was attended by Chief Education Officer Bandipora, Dr. G. M. Pujoo; District Level Master Trainer, Mohammad Iqbal Samoon; Coordinator SVEEP activities Arsalan Habib and other concerned.

LOK SABHA ELECTIONS 2024**Voter awareness programme held at Tulip Garden Kud under SVEEP**

UDHAMPUR, APRIL 2: A vibrant voter awareness program was conducted at Tulip Garden Kud in collaboration with Government Higher Secondary School Kud as part of SVEEP initiative.

Deputy District Election Officer Udhampur, Dr. Aniruddh Rai, and District SVEEP Nodal Officer, Dr. Preeti Sharma, actively engaged with students and locals from Village Kud to spread awareness.

During the event, students presented a skit and performed songs in the local language to educate young voters about their crucial role in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections scheduled for April 19.

Addressing the gathering, the Deputy District Election Officer urged everyone to

facility for senior citizens aged 85 and above. An oath was administered

reach polling booths. Additionally, he urged students to relay his message



maximize voter turnout and highlighted initiatives like the pink booth for women voters and vote-from-home

at the conclusion of the event, emphasizing the importance of voting and assisting those unable to

to their parents, underscoring the significance of their participation in nation-building through elections.

Series of awareness programmes under SVEEP held across Ramban

RAMBAN, APRIL 02: A series of awareness programmes were held today under Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation program (SVEEP) in various institutions and other areas of district Ramban on the directions of District Election Officer (DEO), Ramban, Baser-Ul-Haq Chaudhary.

Resource Persons and members of district SVEEP Cell dispersed across key locations and institutions. They hosted awareness activ-

ities at Government Degree College Ramban, Government Higher Secondary School, Ramban, Bus Stand Ramban and other adjoining areas.

Through comprehensive presentations, they elucidated the imperativeness of inclusive voter participation in safeguarding democratic principles and fortifying the electoral framework.

The awareness programmes were conducted under the supervision of

District Nodal Officer SVEEP, Mohammad Ashfaq Kanji.

The campaign emphasized the pivotal role of strong civic engagement in shaping the democratic landscape. The vibrant participation of youth, alongside members of the public and election personnel, underscored the collective commitment to fostering an informed electorate.

In a proactive move towards enhancing female

voter turnout and participation, Nodal Officer, Women Awareness and Welfare (AC-54), CDPO Ramban, Ravinder Kour sensitized the female voters and encouraged new women voters, emphasizing their crucial role in the electoral process.

Speaking on the occasion, Nodal officer said that such initiatives play a pivotal role in strengthening the democratic fabric of our nation and fostering a culture of active citizenship.

Sanjay Nayar takes over as ASSOCHAM President

Jammu, April. 02: Mr Sanjay Nayar, a well-known name in the global financial markets and Founder and Chairman, Sorin Investment Fund has taken over as President of the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM). Mr Nayar with extensive experience in international finance replaces Mr Ajay Singh, completing his tenure at the Chamber.

Mr Nayar brings an experience of four decades in global financial and capital markets, including 25 years at Citi and nearly 14 at KKR, before retiring last year. He established KKR India operations in 2009 after leaving Citigroup. At KKR, Sanjay led investments of around USD 14 Billion in Private Equity, Real Estate, Infrastructure, and Credit with Private equity being the largest at approximately USD 10 billion valuation.

Sanjay worked across senior leadership positions in Citigroup for 25 years in India, UK, and USA. He served as the CEO of Citigroup's Indian and South Asian operations and was a member of Citigroup's Global Management Committee and Asia Executive Operating Committee.

He serves as a Non-Executive Director at the new-age E-commerce company NYKAA founded by him and his wife Falguni Nayar. Sanjay was recently appointed as a non-official member of the Board of

Trade, Government of India, representing the private sector, and is a member of the National Startup Advisory Council. He is also a member of the Board of the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF), the Governing Board of the Indian School of Business (ISB), a member of the Advisory Board of Habitat for Humanity, Chairman of Grameen Impact Investments India (GIII); and Founder - Social Member of Centre for Social and Economic Progress (CSEP).

for India to become a develop-

ed nation with a multi-fold increase in the country's per capita income and continuation of bold economic growth. I look forward to supporting the efforts being made by the industry to achieve the country's sustainability goals.

"India remains a bright spot in the global economy and we must leverage this position further. Given the recent success of Startup Mahakumbh led by ASSOCHAM, I look forward to catalyzing the startup cul-

an active partner of the government in the policy formulations for inclusive growth with a sense of social responsibility", said Mr Nayar.

Extending a warm welcome to the new President, ASSOCHAM Secretary General Mr Deepak Sood said Sanjay's leadership would help the Chamber strengthen its four pillars of growth. In the coming year, ASSOCHAM will lean on Sanjay's experience and network to further facilitate the growth of the MSME segment, especially the use of emerging technologies such as AI. The chamber has been working passionately on the four pillars of Sustainable, Entrepreneurship, Empowerment, and Digitization. He said the chamber would work towards realizing the avowed objective of India joining the status of a developed country in the next two decades.

About ASSOCHAM: ASSOCHAM initiated its endeavour of value creation for the Indian industry in 1920. It was established by promoter Chambers, representing all regions of India. The Chamber has in its fold over 400 Chambers and Trade Associations and serves over 4.5 lakh members across India. ASSOCHAM has emerged as the fountainhead of Knowledge for the Indian industry, which is all set to redefine the dynamics of growth and development in the knowledge-based economy.



"It is indeed a great honor for me to be elected as the President of ASSOCHAM, the apex institution with a history of over 100 years in its service to the Nation. During my Presidency, my ASSOCHAM colleagues and I will work closely with the government on the visionary goal of our Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi

ture backed by private and public savings", he said.

"ASSOCHAM would continue to play a pro-active role in the endeavour of nation building. Aligned with its four growth pillars, I look forward to furthering efforts to facilitate the MSME segment, through improved financing and digitization. The Chamber would remain

LOK SABHA ELECTIONS 2024**Series of voter awareness activities held in Udhampur under SVEEP**

UDHAMPUR, APRIL 02: The District

Administration Udhampur today conducted series of events under SVEEP (Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation) initiative in different parts of Udhampur district in preparation for the upcoming Lok Sabha Elections 2024.

A significant voter awareness program was convened by the Sub Divisional Magistrate Ramnagar at the Sports Stadium and Bus Stand, Ramnagar.

District Election Officer Udhampur, Saloni Rai, along with Senior Superintendent of police Udhampur, Joginder Singh joined this mega SVEEP initiative.

In an extraordinary celebration of democracy, a young couple, dressed in their wedding attire and accompanied by a traditional Indian wedding procession, made their way through the streets of Ramnagar town to spread awareness about voting rights. The action turned heads and sparked conversations, underscoring the vital message that participating in democratic processes is a crucial responsibility, regardless of personal circumstances.

This remarkable gesture not only captivated onlookers and voters but also served as a vibrant message of participation in the upcoming elec-

tions scheduled on 19th April 2024.

Besides, a vibrant cultural

education and awareness, particularly among the younger demographic and

Elections 2024, has been officially declared open by District Election Officer



program was organised in the Sports stadium Ramnagar to educate the public. The DEO Udhampur also addressed the gathering.

The DEO emphasised the need for comprehensive arrangements to ensure maximum public participation, especially among the youth, encouraging them to partake in the General Elections. She underscored that these programs aim to foster voter

the general public. Furthermore, the campaign focused on mobilizing and involving the youth to serve as ambassadors, advocating for the significance of active participation in the democratic electoral process and contributing to the nation's development.

Today, the online competition for creating e-content, including posters, slogans and videos for the General

Udhampur, Saloni Rai.

The event was graced by the presence of Deputy District Election Officer, Dr. Aniruddh Rai, District Panchayat Officer and Nodal Officer for SVEEP, Dr. Preeti Sharma, as well as District Information Officer and Nodal Officer for MCMC, Rajinder Digna. The inaugural ceremony took place at the Mini Conference Hall at DC Office Complex Udhampur.