

National Voters' Day Celebration in Mizoram **Date 25th January, 2018**

National Voters' day was celebrated in Mizoram with lot of enthusiasm and energy. In all the eight districts of the state the celebration was made under the leadership of the Dy. Commissioners in which officials, staffs and members of NGOs participated. At Aizawl, there was state level function. In the morning at 7:00 AM a run to mark NVD was organized in the cold winter of Aizawl. Around 200-250 school boys and girls participated in the run with colourful caps carrying the Flags specially designed for the purpose. The run was joined by the Election officials and staffs including Chief Electoral Officer and others. Voters' pledge was administered to all the participants.

Further, in the day another Function was held at Synod Conference Centre at Mission Veng, Aizawl. Lt. Gen. Nirbhay Sharma (Retd), Governor of Mizoram was the chief guest on this occasion. In this function, government officials, school, students, teachers, officials from armed forces also participated. It was well attended by more than 300 people. Sh. S.B.Shashank, Chief Electoral Officer gave the welcome speech. While speaking on this occasion he mentioned in great detail how the first Lok Sabha General election was held in 1951 – 52 simultaneously alongwith state assembly elections and how the world saw it with awe and inspiration. He congratulated all the election officials for having completed the onerous task of special summary revision in year 2017. In Mizoram there are total **759519** electors, and women out number men. CEO congratulated Jonathan Lalchhandama, a class XII student of Govt. Central Higher Secondary School, Aizawl for bagging third prize at the National Painting and Drawing Competition on Electoral Awareness, 2017. He also congratulated Lianthanzuala and Ruthi Zonuntluangi both of

Govt. Republic Higher Secondary School, Aizawl for representing state of Mizoram in National Election Quiz Competition at Delhi and for bagging third prize in the Zonal Round.

Sh. Dr Lalnunthara, Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities in his speech expressed his profuse thanks to the Election Commission of India for choosing the theme of this years NVD as “Accessible Election”. He expressed his desire to fulfill this theme in letter and spirit.

His Excellency, the Governor of Mizoram Lt. General Nirbhay Sharma (Retd) in his key speech expressed his satisfaction that Mizoram is such a state which follows the voters’ pledge in letter and spirit. He congratulated the boys and girls who bagged prizes at National level. While acknowledging that women outnumbering men in electoral roll is definitely a sign of women empowerment but the true empowerment will come when the number of women candidates increases in the elections. He wished the citizens of the state a Happy National Voters’ Day.

A voters’ pledge was administered by Mary Lalduhawmi, a student of class XII, of MICE School, Aizawl to the gathering. Hon’ble Governor and all others present in the function took the pledge. On this occasion, a message of Sh O P Rawat, Chief Election Commissioner was also broadcast. A five minutes audio visual on the EVM was also shown in order to educate the gathering about the robustness of the EVM and its technology.

Musical performance was also given by young singers to the delight of the gathering. First time voters were given the beautifully made Electoral Photo Identity Cards. Best performing Booth Level Officers were given awards and certificate by the Hon’ble Governor in the function

The Hon'ble Chief Minister Sh Lalthanhawla in his message to the Chief Electoral Officer, Mizoram expressed his good wishes on the National Voters' Day, 2018. In all government offices in Mizoram, voters' pledge was administered by the heads of offices. At Mizoram Government Secretariat, pledge was administered to the Secretaries and other staff by Sh. Lalmalsawma, Chief Secretary.

sd/—

(**MALSAWMZUALA**)

Asst. Chief Electoral Officer

Mizoram : Aizawl.