

MINUTES OF MEETING OF STEERING COMMITTEE ON ACCESSIBLE ELECTION HELD ON 21st JANUARY, 2022, AT 3:00 PM IN THE CONFERENCE HALL OF CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER OFFICE, MANIPUR AT LAMPHELPAT, IMPHAL WITH SHRI RAJESH AGRAWAL, CEO MANIPUR IN THE CHAIR.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS AT ANNEXURE.

2. At the outset, Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), Manipur welcomed all the members present and stated that the meeting was convened specially to take stock of activities taken up so far and planned to be taken up to ensure accessibility for Persons with Disability (PwD) in the electoral processes, particularly in view of the upcoming State Assembly Election-2022. CEO, Manipur highlighted the Accessibility measures being taken for the PwD electors, to ensure hassle free participation in the electoral process.

3. The followings points were discussed in detail:

- i. CEO, Manipur apprised that apart from the **Assured Minimum Facilities (AMFs)**, Wheelchair, Transportation facilities, Volunteer assistance, separate queue for PwDs etc. will be provided at the Polling Stations.

[Action: All District Election Officers, Manipur]

- ii. President, Handicapped Development Foundation, suggested that services of Sign Language Interpreter, may be used in dissemination of Election related information. He further pointed out that categorization of disability forms should be done Polling Station wise for better accessibility and arrangements. Sensitization of the Polling Personnel and the Volunteers on Inclusive and Accessible Elections must be taken up before the Poll. It was decided that a video for the same with sign language interpreter will be provided to all Polling parties. Sveep division at CEO office will get this ready and coordinate. The remaining suggestions should be acted upon by the DEOs/ROs.

[Action: All District Election Officers, Manipur]

- iii. Director, Social Welfare Department, Government of Manipur, pointed out that the facility of Postal Ballots may be provided at the doorstep of the PwD and 80 years plus electors. It was informed that the BLOs are taking up the exercise of delivering Form 12-D for Postal Ballot to all the eligible PwD and 80 years above electors.

[Action: All District Election Officers, Manipur]

- iv. Director, Education (S) raised the necessity of Volunteer assistance on the Poll Day, to which, it was informed that one Volunteer for every Polling Station who is below 18 years of age shall be in place at the Polling station on the Poll Day.

[Action: All District Election Officers, Manipur]

- v. CEO, Manipur, instructed that a brief guideline/e-Poster highlighting the Accessibility measures may be widely circulated, through Schools, colleges, social welfare network and CSOs, for better understanding of all concerned. Further, explainer video clip with sign language (as discussed above) and voice over in both English and local language may also be made soon and circulated. An Application enabling PwD electors to book for wheelchairs and seek for Postal Ballot is also to be launched. All these efforts should also be featured in the proposed e-poster so that eligible voters are aware of options.

[Action: Jt. CEO-II, Manipur]

- vi. CEO, Manipur, further stressed the importance of having list of contesting Candidates and their corresponding serial numbers printed in the Braille format, apart from highlighting the provision of Companion at the polling station, for blind electors, in the e-poster.

[Action: Jt. CEO (II), District Election Officers, Manipur]

- vii. President, Handicapped Development Foundation, suggested that a Virtual meeting with CSOs working in the field of PwDs may be convened soon to appraise of the Accessibility measures for the upcoming elections.

[Action: Joint CEO-II, Manipur]

4. The meeting concluded with thanks from the Chair.

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

Copy to:

1. Members of the Core Committee.
2. All District Election Officers
3. All Electoral Returning Officers
4. Relevant File

Sd/-
(Rajesh Agrawal)
Chief Electoral Officer, Manipur
Imphal, the 21st January, 2022



(Md. S. Daulat Khan)
Joint Chief Electoral Officer, Manipur