

Election Commission of India
Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001

No. ECI/PN/84/2017

Dt: 3rd November, 2017

Press Note

Review of preparedness for Himachal Pradesh election by the Commission

In view of the forthcoming polling in Himachal Pradesh on 9th November, 2017, the Election Commission of India today held a Video Conference (VC) with full Commission comprising Sh. A. K. Joti, CEC, Sri OP Rawat, Election Commissioner and Shri Sunil Arora Election Commissioner, to review the preparations of conduct of Polls in a free, fair and peaceful way. The VC was attended by the Chief Secretaries, DGPs and Chief Electoral Officers along with other senior officials related to Excise, Commercial Tax of Himachal Pradesh and its neighbouring States i.e. Jammu & Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab and Haryana.

During the VC, the Commission discussed wide-ranging subjects from joint checking at boarders, checking the movement of liquor, cash, arms and Anti-Social Elements/ criminals at the check posts, sharing of intelligence between the States, effective communication, declaration of dry day and other pre-poll and poll day arrangements in Himachal Pradesh and other neighbouring States.

The Commission directed the officials to enhance the surveillance on possible interstate movement of free goodies intended for distribution to induce electors and to prevent the storage of such items in bordering areas. Commission also directed to implement sealing of the interstate border on poll day to prevent any undue influence on polling from outside. Commission reviewed the Income Tax (IT) seizures and preparedness of Himachal Pradesh and neighbouring states. Commission also directed to hold Inter-State Co-ordination meetings of border districts for better co-ordination and effective implementation of the Commission's directions.

The Commission directed the Chief Secretaries of the neighbouring States to declare paid holidays on 9th November for those electors of Himachal Pradesh who work in adjoining areas of the neighbouring states. It also directed that the CAPF be used for Confidence Building Measures and to re-assure the voters and instil faith and confidence. It also emphasised on setting up of interstate 'Nakas' and proper surveillance at the adjoining areas of bordering states of Himachal Pradesh to prevent any illegal transport of arms, drugs, liquors etc. on poll day and pre-poll days. Following are the data related to search and seizure in the State.

Seizure by all authorities 12.10.17 to 2.11.2017				
	Police	Excise	IT	Total
Cash	Rs. 1.29 cr	0	Rs. 61.61 lakh	Rs. 1.91 cr
Liquor (w.e.f. 28.9.17 to 2.11.17)	13510 ltr	1.77 lakh ltr	0	Rs. 3.72 cr
Drugs				Rs. 12.86 cr
Printed Material	28 Bags+ 44211 Posters	0	0	28 Bags+ 44211 Posters
Gold Items (Kg)	2.988	0	0	2.988

