

No.EDN-HE (21) F (11)07/2023-Misc

Directorate of Higher Education
Himachal Pradesh, Shimla-1

Telephone No.0177-2653120, Extension: 234 Fax: 0177-2812882

E-mail:dhe-sml-hp@gov.in

E-mail:genbr@rediffmail.com

Dated: Shimla-171001 the December, 2023

To

All the Deputy Directors of Higher Education,
In Himachal Pradesh.


13 DEC 2023

Subject: - Electoral Literacy Clubs (EICS) to formalize a mutual partnership to promote voter education amongst students.

Sir,


Please find enclosed herewith a copy of letter No.EDUB-D07/1/2023 dated: 21/11/2023, received from the Secretray (Education) to the Government of Himachal Pradesh on the subject cited above alongwith its enclosure recieved from GoI Ministry of Education Department of School Education and Literacy.

In this regard, you are directed to circulate the same amongst all the head of Educational institutions under your control to designate **Electoral Literacy Clubs** and send the action taken report to this Directorate so that Govt. could be apprised accordingly.


Dr. Amarjeet.K.Sharma
Director of Higher Education,
Himachal Pradesh

Endst.No. Even Dated: Shimla-171001 the December, 2023
Copy for information:-

1. The Secretary (Education) to the Government of Himachal Pradesh.
2. The Superintendent College Branch Directorate of Higher Education, H.P. for similar action.
3. The Technical officer (IT/Cell), Directorate of Higher Education Shimla-1, to upload the letter on departmental website.
4. Guard File.


Director of Higher Education,
Himachal Pradesh, Shimla

No. EDUB-D07/1/2023
Government of Himachal Pradesh
Department of Higher Education

S. Cell 1
DHE.....
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21 NOV 2023
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From

The Secretary (Education) to the
Government of Himachal Pradesh

To

✓ The Director, Higher Education,
Himachal Pradesh, Shimla-171001

Dated Shimla-171002, the

21 | 11 | 2023.

Subject:- Electoral Literacy Clubs(Elcs) to formalize a mutual
partnership to promote voter education amongst students.

Sir,

I am directed to forward herewith a photocopy of D.O. letter
No. 7-16/2022-INS.5, dated 14.11.2023, alongwith its enclosures as received
from the Joint Secretary to the Govt. of India, Ministry of Education,
Department of School Education & Literacy, New Delhi-110115 on the
subject cited above and to request you to take necessary action in the matter
and furnish a report to quarter concerned, under intimation to this
department.

Yours faithfully,

(Anil Sharma) 21/11
Under Secretary (Hr.Edu.) to the
Government of Himachal Pradesh

Int. Recd

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EDUB-DO7/1/2023

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY
SHASTRI BHAVAN
NEW DELHI-110 115



आजादी का
अमृत महोत्सव

भारत सरकार
शिक्षा मंत्रालय
स्कूल शिक्षा और साक्षरता विभाग
शास्त्री भवन
नई दिल्ली - 110 115

Prachi Pandey
Joint Secretary
Tel No: 011-2338 9247
Email:prachi.p@gov.in

D.O. No. 7-16/2022-INS.5

New Delhi, the 14th November, 2023

Respected Madam/Sir,

It is my pleasure to inform you that the Ministry of Education (Department of School Education & Literacy (DoSEL) and Department of Higher Education) has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Election Commission of India (ECI) on 2.11.2023 for promoting voter education and electoral literacy by formalizing them in the curriculum thereby preparing future and new voters for greater electoral participation. A copy of the MoU is enclosed.

2. A number of action points emerge from the MoU which primarily relate to the area of School Education. These include integration of voter education and electoral literacy under NCF for classes 6 to 12 for all schools of the country, including Electoral Literacy in the curriculum for adult literacy and basic education, conducting special drives, mobilisation campaigns, pledge and participatory activities in schools such as mock polls, EVM-VVPAT demonstrations, information about ECI mobile apps, conduct competitions for electoral education and outreach, celebration of National Voters' Day (25th January), designating a 'Democracy Room' in each school for display of electoral awareness material, Electoral Literacy Clubs in each school etc. In this connection, this Department's letter of even number dated 28.6.2023 may be referred to.

3. I am sure you will appreciate that this MoU would serve to attain the intended goals of having informed voters and increasing electoral participation, in particular among the youth. I seek your invaluable support in realising the goals set out through this partnership with the ECI. I shall be grateful if you could kindly direct the concerned Officials in your Ministries/Departments/States/UTs to take immediate necessary action and furnish a report on the same to this Department by end of this month.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Prachi Pandey
(Prachi Pandey)

- To,
1. Secretaries of Ministries, Government of India (Defence, Tribal Affairs, Railway, Home Affairs, Atomic Energy)
 2. The Additional Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary/Secretary (School Education)/SPDs of all States/UTs. (as per list attached)
 3. Heads of Autonomous Bodies, Ministry of Education (as per list attached)

Copy for information to: Shri Manoj Kumar Sahoo, Deputy Election Commissioner, ECI
Nirvachan Bhawan, New Delhi

16/11/23
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A.K.C.

F.No. 7-16/2022-INS.5
Government of India
Ministry of Education
Department of School Education & Literacy

Dated the 28th June, 2023

To,

Secretary (School Education) of all States/UTs.

Subject: - Designing Electoral Literacy Clubs (ELCs) to formalize a mutual partnership to promote voter education amongst students for LS Election 2024 reg:

Sir/Madam,

I am directed to forward herewith a DO letter dated 22nd May 2023 to the Election Commission of India informing that with the Lok Sabha Elections 2024 approaching, voter education for electoral participation has now acquired a new sense of urgency. Young voters hold the key to the country's future and their low participation has been a cause of concern. In this regard the ECI has suggested to State Education Department to designate Electoral Literacy Clubs (ELCs) to disseminate information amongst school/College-going students in an engaging manner focusing on participatory activities, games, films, etc.

2. It has been further informed that the ELCs in schools/colleges for new/future voters, and other co-curriculum activities for imparting voter awareness amongst students will make them fully conversant with the electoral system of the country and inculcate in them the willingness to register as voters and participate in every election in a passionate, informed, and ethical manner.


3. The ECI has also suggested long-term measures, which require continuous and sustained attention on the following areas:

- a. Integrate voter education and electoral literacy in a systematic manner in the curricular framework under NCF for all schools and colleges in an age-appropriate manner and;
- b. Integrate voter education and electoral literacy appropriately in the curricular framework for all colleges/universities in a manner and to the extent of credit & hours suitable for different disciplines;
- c. Introduce/update textbooks of NCERT to incorporate electoral literacy and advise State Education Boards and other Boards to do the same;
- d. Orients/train teachers in imparting electoral literacy in the classrooms;
- e. Mainstream voter education content in teaching, learning and assessment; and voter education and electoral literacy in pre-service teacher education courses; and
- f. Devise a system of credits for students taking part in CEDE to pursue higher studies.

4. In this regard, it is requested to take necessary action on above points and activities and share your comments/ATR on the above directly to the ECI.

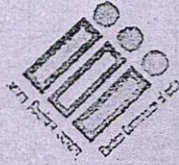
5. This issues with the approval of Competent Authority.

Yours faithfully,


(V.N. Shukla)

Deputy Secretary to the Government of India

Encl: As above



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

This Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter to be referred to as "MOU") is signed on this 2nd November, 2023.

BETWEEN

The ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA, a constitutional body, having its registered office at Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi -01 (hereinafter referred to as "ECI")

AND

Ministry of Education including the Department of School Education & Literacy (DoSEL) and Department of Higher Education (DoHE) on the Other Part

And shall hereafter be collectively known as "Partners"

WHEREAS:

The ECI is a body under the Constitution mandated with the 'superintendence, direction and control' of the conduct of elections to the Parliament and every State Legislature and preparation and revision of electoral rolls;

Further, ECI has been pursuing the ideals of inclusive & accessible elections and informed & ethical voting and striving to address the issues of youth apathy (national enrolment rate in 18-19-year age cohort is less than 14%) and urban apathy (voter turnout in cities is significantly lower than the average national turnout and metropolitan cities have been amongst the least voter turnout areas of the country) by making concerted efforts and forging suitable partnerships;

W.S.
by

R. K. S. S.

- 2) Integrate voter education and electoral literacy appropriately in the curricular framework for all colleges/universities in a manner and to the extent of credit & hours suitable for different disciplines.
- 3) Introduce/update textbooks of NCERT to incorporate electoral literacy and advise State Education Boards and other Boards to do the same;
- 4) Orient/train teachers in imparting electoral literacy in the classrooms;
- 5) Mainstream voter education content in teaching, learning and assessment; and voter education and electoral literacy in pre-service teacher education courses;
- 6) Create an institutional framework for using anonymised & aggregated UDISE (Unified District Information System for Education), All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) and other databases of students who have attained 17+ years of age with due regard to data privacy and protection with a view to facilitating online voter registration of eligible and prospective students after every qualifying date (1st January, 1st April, 1st July and 1st October of every calendar year) and during the Annual Summary Revision of Electoral Rolls (in the last quarter of every calendar year) using voter registration portals and mobile apps of ECI; evolve a robust mechanism to fulfil the aspirational goal of ECI to handover the Voter ID card to every student of the country immediately after their attaining the age of 18 years;
- 7) Develop an institutional framework for inculcating a sense of ownership amongst State Education Departments for the Electoral Literacy Clubs (ELCs) in schools/colleges for new/future voters, and other co-curricular activities for imparting voter awareness amongst students with a view to making them fully conversant with the electoral system of the country and inculcate in them the willingness to register as voters and participate in every election in a passionate, informed and ethical manner;
- 8) Conduct online/offline/blended training of nodal teachers for organising ELC activities and appoint/train campus ambassadors in schools and colleges to lead the ELC activities;
- 9) Include Electoral Literacy in the curriculum for adult literacy and basic education, develop educational content on electoral processes for life-long learning and make electoral literacy an integrated component of life-long education.

AND:

WHEREAS, the Department of School Education & Literacy is responsible for ensuring school education and literacy in the country through universal access to quality education which is fundamental for developing an equitable and just society, promoting national development, scientific advancement, national integration, and cultural preservation. The DoSEL works through its autonomous/Statutory bodies and state governments and their autonomous/ statutory bodies;

WHEREAS, the Department of Higher Education, is responsible for the overall development of the basic infrastructure of the Higher Education sector and looks after the expansion of access and qualitative improvement in Higher Education, through world-class Universities, Colleges and other Institutions and regulates all institutions imparting higher education in the country through University Grants Commission (UGC), All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and other statutory bodies;

AND:

WHEREAS, ECI is implementing its flagship programme called Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (hereinafter to be referred to as 'SVEEP') that aims at universal and enlightened participation of all eligible citizens in elections *inter alia* by addressing urban and youth apathy;

AND:

WHEREAS, Continuous Electoral and Democracy Education (CEDE) is an important component of SVEEP strategy which needs to be formalized and grounded in the school and higher education system in order to motivate future voters for greater electoral participation that would enable them to be responsible citizens who take pride in being a part of our democratic system in an informed manner with a sense of duty and purpose to strengthen our democracy;

AND:

WHEREAS, the National Education Policy 2020 (NEP) is a transformative initiative to usher India to prepare itself to meet the challenging demands of a 21ST Century knowledge society;

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AND:

WHEREAS, the National Curriculum Framework (hereinafter to be referred to as 'NCF') being developed by NCERT, an Autonomous Body under the DoSEL, is one of the key components of NEP 2020, that enables and energizes this transformation, informed by the approach of NEP 2020. The revision of NCF provides an opportunity for ECI to integrate voter education and electoral literacy in the curricular framework of various grades of schools;

AND:

WHEREAS, ECI carries out the SVEEP programme in collaboration with government departments and partner agencies at various levels who have the complementary strength and objectives; for achieving optimal and sustainable outcomes, electoral literacy needs to become a formal part of the school/college education system in the form of a structured, curricular, co-curricular and extra-curricular activities and having due linkages with accreditation and assessment systems;

AND:

WHEREAS, both Partners have agreed to enter into an MoU to collaborate in their endeavours to attract the young minds in classes 6-12 and at the college level towards understanding the democratic electoral process, teach them the specific details of the constitutional and legal foundations of our electoral system, the core values and processes of inclusive, accessible and ethical elections and the range of election technologies as a means of empowering the citizen through ease of registration and ease of participation as a voter, besides also strengthening the school and college campus system for facilitating registration of newly eligible voters;

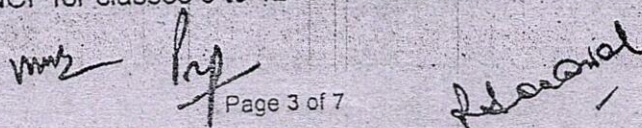
AND:

WHEREAS, DoSEL and DoHE are also in a position to facilitate the registration of young voters.

THEREFORE:

Under this MoU, the DoSEL & DoHE, as the case may be, will:

- 1) Integrate voter education and electoral literacy in a systematic manner in the curricular framework under NCF for classes 6 to 12 for all schools of the country;


Page 3 of 7

- 10) Disseminate communication material on electoral literacy prepared in consultation with ECI through various forms of media appropriate for school/college students;
- 11) Organise mobilisation campaigns and participatory activities in schools/colleges, administer a pledge to vote by students, organising mock polls, EVM-VVPAT demonstrations, information about ECI mobile apps, conduct competitions for electoral education and outreach;
- 12) Organise intensive activities on the occasion of National Voters' Day (25th January), and undertake voter awareness drive by students during the election time;
- 13) Devise a system of credits for students taking part in CEDE to pursue higher studies;
- 14) To regularly monitor the electoral literacy programme in all schools/colleges/universities at the national and state levels, among other things, to meet its objectives and to ensure the non-political and non-partisan character of the collaboration;
- 15) Introduce electoral literacy awareness programmes in colleges/universities wherever elections to student bodies are held for inculcating practices of ethical voting right from the formative days and ensuring free, fair & inducement-free ethical elections at the student union level;
- 16) Designate and brand one of the rooms in every senior secondary school as the 'Democracy Room' for displaying SVEEP material on regular basis and conducting CEDE activities around the year;
- 17) Ensuring end-to-end accessibility of every school/college building which is used as a polling station during elections, by providing standard ramps (1:10 gradient slope); an adequate number of separate male and female toilets and accessible toilets; and proper lighting/electricity.
- 18) Devise a mechanism by which the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) includes electoral literacy as one of the components in conducting assessment and accreditation of Higher Educational Institutions.

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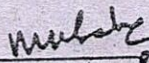
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This MoU will be valid for a period of five years, unless cancelled earlier with mutual consent, and can be extended from time to time.

Signed on behalf of:

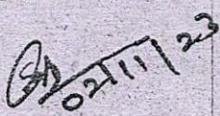
First Party:

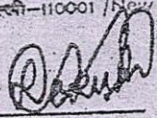

02/11/2023
Signature

Manoj Kumar Sahoo
(Deputy Election Commissioner)

मनोज कुमार साहू / MANOJ KUMAR SAHOO
उप निर्वाचन आयुक्त / Deputy Election Commissioner
भारत निर्वाचन आयोग
Election Commission of India
निर्वाचन सदन / Nirvachan Sadan
अशोक रोड / Ashoka Road
नई दिल्ली-110001 / New Delhi-110001

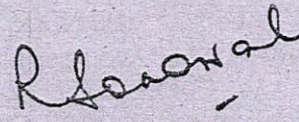
In the presence of:


02/11/23
Signature
संतोष अजमेरा / SANTOSH AJMERA
Santosh Ajmera
(Director)
भारत निर्वाचन आयोग
Election Commission of India
निर्वाचन सदन / Nirvachan Sadan
अशोक रोड / Ashoka Road
नई दिल्ली-110001 / New Delhi-110001

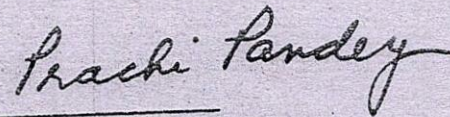

Signature
Love Kush Yadav
(Under Secretary)

लवकुश यादव / LOVE KUSH YADAV
अवर सचिव / Under Secretary
भारत निर्वाचन आयोग
Election Commission of India
निर्वाचन सदन / Nirvachan Sadan
अशोक रोड / Ashoka Road
नई दिल्ली-110001 / New Delhi-110001

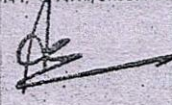
Second Party :


Signature

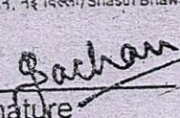
1. Smt. Rina Sonowal Kouli
Joint Secretary (Higher Education)
Department of Higher Education,
New Delhi
(रीना सोनोवाल कौलि)
(RINA SONOWAL KOULI)
संयुक्त सचिव / Joint Secretary
भारत सरकार / Govt. of India
उच्चतर शिक्षा विभाग / D/o Higher Educa
नई दिल्ली / New Delhi


Signature

2. Smt. Prachi Pandey
Joint Secretary (Institutions & Training)
Department of Education &
Literacy, New Delhi
(प्राची पण्डेय)
(PRACHI PANDEY)
संयुक्त सचिव / Joint Secretary
भारत सरकार / Govt. of India
शिक्षा मंत्रालय / Min. of Education
स्कूल शिक्षा और साक्षरता विभाग / D/o School Education & Literacy
शास्त्री भवन, नई दिल्ली / Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi


Signature

Ajeet Kumar
(Under Secretary)
अवर सचिव / Under Secretary
भारत सरकार / Govt. of India
शिक्षा मंत्रालय / Min. of Education
उच्चतर शिक्षा विभाग / D/o Higher Education
शास्त्री भवन, नई दिल्ली / Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi


Signature
Praveen Kumar Sachan
(Under Secretary)
प्रवीण कुमार सचान / Praveen Kumar Sachan
अवर सचिव / Under Secretary
भारत सरकार / Govt. of India
शिक्षा मंत्रालय / Ministry of Education
स्कूल शिक्षा एवं साक्षरता विभाग
शास्त्री भवन, नई दिल्ली / Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi